

**Museum of History and Holocaust Education Legacy Series**  
**William Campbell interview**  
**Conducted by James Newberry**  
**April 11, 2017**  
**Transcribed by Ashley Burgess**

Born in Oklahoma in 1937, William Campbell moved to Oklahoma City when his father was drafted into the military during World War II. For two years, Campbell lived in a barber shop with his mother and sister and depended on his grandparents for financial support. After college, Campbell got a job with the Lockheed Corporation and moved to Georgia. He recorded his oral history interview at Kennesaw State University in April 2017. (<https://soar.kennesaw.edu/handle/11360/2248>)

**Full Transcript**

Interviewer: This is James Newberry and I'm here with Bill Campbell on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at the Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University. And Mr. Campbell, do you agree to this interview?

Campbell: Yes, very much so.

Interviewer: Thank you very much. And thanks for sitting down with me. Let's start at the beginning. What is your full name?

Campbell: William Doyle Campbell.

Interviewer: And what's your birthday?

Campbell: January 3, 1937.

Interviewer: Mr. Campbell, where were you born?

Campbell: I was born in my grandfather's house in Maud, Oklahoma, a small little town about forty miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

Interviewer: And what were your parents' names?

Campbell: Gerald E. and Edith L. Campbell.

Interviewer: What did they do for a living?

Campbell: My dad was a druggist. My mother worked in a wholesale drug place just filling orders for the drug stores around Oklahoma City that needed prescriptions filled and so forth.

Interviewer: You said your father was a druggist. Did that—Tell me about your lifestyle with him as a druggist. Did you stay in one place? Did you move around?

Campbell: We moved around frequently because he did not have a license. He learned to be a

druggist. His father was a doctor, an M.D., and his father was always writing prescriptions and my dad got well-acquainted with the druggist in town and that man taught him how to make pills. I mean, then you didn't count pills. You made pills in capsules by putting the right medicine in the capsule. Dad learned that, but he didn't have very good eyesight and he just couldn't go to college to get a degree. And so, he worked for the druggist that had a license all his life except right at the very end. So, we moved a lot.

Interviewer: And you said you were born in Maud in your grandfather's house. Was this your father's father?

Campbell: My father's father, the M.D. He went—About two weeks before what he perceived to be the delivery date, he went over to Mom and Dad's house and took my mother and she lived with them and he delivered about two weeks later, on January 3.

Interviewer: So, what were some of the places you moved around to while your father was still there, before the war?

Campbell: Yeah. Okay. Well, we lived on the outskirts of Oklahoma City for a little while and he worked at a drug store nearby. Mother wasn't working at that time. But then, his brother lived about forty miles south of Oklahoma City in a little town. His brother was in the public school system as administrative jobs. Dad decided to move down there. His brother owned a little grocery store right across the street from the school. We moved into that grocery store and lived in the back of it. I went to the first grade there. My first-grade teacher was my dad's brother's wife, my aunt, in the first grade. Shortly thereafter, Dad was called to the service. Then we moved back to Oklahoma City.

Interviewer: So, you were living in the back of a grocery store.

Campbell: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay. Can you tell me about your family's financial situation?

Campbell: We were poor as church mice [laughs]. My dad's brother was pretty well-off. He was a superintendent of that county in public school system. They lived down the road in a really lovely home and had a few horses. He was in the roping business in all kinds of different activities, roping calves, had various get-togethers. Anyway, Dad was kind of dependent on his brother to help us find a place to live that we could afford.

Interviewer: Do you have memories of that grocery store or is that just what you've been told?

Campbell: No, no, I have very distinct memories of that. His brother gave Dad a horse, among the other horses. He raised quarter-horses, but he gave us [laugh] this big old horse. He was so tall. I used to have to take a pillow; the back of that horse was so sharp that it hurt to sit on him, so I had to take a pillow and sit on a pillow and ride a mile up the road to the post office to get the mail for Mom, who run the grocery store. Dad was about ten miles away, working at the drug store in another town.

Interviewer: So, you were living there at the start of the war, or when the United States entered the war.

Campbell: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Do you have any memories of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

Campbell: Just hearsay. Yeah, just—We didn't have TV at the time. In fact, I don't think there was at the time [laugh]. But radio, and talk—At school, people would talk about different things, you know, some of the teachers would relate to it.

Interviewer: When was your father drafted?

Campbell: Well, he was drafted—I think it was 1942. He shouldn't have been drafted. He was thirty-eight years old. He wouldn't have passed the physical exam. But he knew drugs. At that time, the activities where the fighting was going on—he was in Germany—and they had kind of earmarked him for being in the back hospitals working with medicine for the doctors that were patching up soldiers at the various army camps. They didn't really mind that he was flat-footed and couldn't pass a physical and was old; he was the oldest guy in the division. They got his orders mixed up somehow. He wasn't at the hospitals and backlines. He was up in the foxholes patching boys that shrapnel had hit them pretty bad.

Interviewer: Is that something y'all knew about at the time or did you only know after?

Campbell: Dad, when he—After the war was over—He was in the Battle of the Bulge. And after the war was over, he came home, and I would sit at his feet when he would sit in his easy chair and ask him questions and he wouldn't answer them. He didn't want to talk about it. It was five years of me asking before he ever opened up because the memories that it would bring forth when he would be talking, you could see tears going down going down his eyes. It was something that he just didn't want to anymore.

Interviewer: When he eventually did tell you, can you share some of that?

Campbell: A couple of things that—I just couldn't believe it happened, but it did. He was in a foxhole, a pretty good size one with another troop. The other troop was on the opposite side of the foxhole from my dad, and they were looking at each other, staying down—it was a fairly deep foxhole—and they heard this German buzz bomb. It's a—They had a big rocket that the Germans were firing and when that thing went off, I mean, anything around 100-150 yards, it just blew sky high. You know, it just—And this buzz bomb went right over them and landed about 100 yards beyond them, and it was a dud. It did not explode.

Shortly thereafter, the Germans were lobbing some kind of little, small rockets, you know, that they have when they load and drop it and away it goes, you know? And a piece of shrapnel off of one of those rockets hit the soldier across from Dad, right in the

midsection, and just blew him open. And Dad says, “Well,” he said, “I looked at him and,” he said, “I knew he wouldn’t live long.” But he said, “The only thing I could think to do was to take some sand in the foxhole and put it in there to stop the bleeding so rapidly and maybe I’d have a little bit of time to talk with him.” He said, “I’ve had sleepless nights thinking about that event.” That was the worst one he ever told me about.

There was another one where they were down in a German town—they’d taken it—but the Germans had built some underground structures where the stairways would go down one way and turn and turn so that if a bomb went off at the top of the stairway, it would never get down to the bottom because of all the changes in direction. Well, he and this captain were told to go down to the bottom of that to make sure there were no Germans in the area, in any of the rooms down there. And he was scared to death because he didn’t have a gun [laugh]. All he had was a flashlight. I remember the World War II flashlights were—they were green, and they went up and the light poked this way [makes gesture], not straight on. And they would put the light around the corner and if nobody shot at them [laugh], they figured, “Okay, it’s clear that way,” you know.

Anyway, they went through all the rooms, and they found this one guy sleeping, German. The captain got the drop on him and took his gun and gave it to Dad and said, “Now, you stay here, and you hold that gun on him. If he moves, shoot him.” And Dad says, “I couldn’t even make my hand still.” He says, “It was just shaking all the time. I was just so nervous, and I didn’t want him to move, but, boy, I was going to shoot him.” And he said the captain went off and looked at some of the other rooms that they hadn’t been to yet and that was the only guy they found, so then they finally took him out. But Dad said, “That was a fearful event because I just didn’t know what was going to happen. I didn’t know if this guy was one of those kinds that thinks he’s macho, you know, and he can overcome me or whether—I just didn’t know, but I was nervous” [laugh]. So those couple of the times he related to me.

Interviewer: So, did he regret or have, you know, irritation or stress that his orders had been mixed up and he was serving on the front line?

Campbell: You know, he never really talked about that much. Yeah, he was disappointed, but he said that—Well, he put it this way: he said, “That’s where God wanted me.” So, he lived it that way.

Interviewer: You said most of his duties had to do with being knowledgeable about drugs.

Campbell: [nods] Medicine.

Interviewer: So, he was gone for a time there.

Campbell: He was gone for 28 months.

Interviewer: And can you talk about your life in that period—

Campbell: [laugh]

Interviewer: —you and your mother and your sister?

Campbell: Okay, well, that was another interesting—I have a lot of vague memories—Or a lot of memories, not vague, about that time because—Well, like I said, we were very poor. We had to move to Oklahoma City once he was drafted. We moved into downtown part of Oklahoma City. Across the street were my mother's mother and stepfather in a duplex. We found a place to live right across the street in downtown Oklahoma City, and it was an abandoned barber shop. And this barber shop [laughs], it had a big picture window out on a sidewalk. And you go back into the room and there was a toilet and a wash basin, and that was it. That's where we lived. Grandma was a seamstress, so she helped Mom build a couple of big drapes that we could put up close to the front to keep people from looking at us when they walking down the sidewalk—little privacy—and then another drape to demark the bedroom in the back. But all we had was just a toilet and a basin, so all of our showers, all of our meals were at Grandma's, across the street.

And my grandmother—My sister was three years younger than I am, and I was starting into the second grade at that point. The school was right up the street, one block away, so I could easily walk to school. And Mom then went to work downtown, farther downtown, in a wholesale drug company, just filling prescriptions for the drug stores as they would call in the orders, and the drug company would deliver the stuff to the drug stores. She had a—very much like a shopping basket at the grocery store today. She had one of those. She had to go down the aisle and pick things [gestures], you know, and fill the orders. That's what she did all the time Dad was gone.

Dad and Mom wrote to each other almost daily. We'd get a little special—it wasn't very— about the size of a postcard, that the military provided for the troops. Dad would fill that out, and then Mom would respond, back and forth, back and forth. And they kept in really as close touch—I was impressed that Mom would take the time to answer his questions. He would answer Mom. They kept in contact like that.

Mom was worried about me. She enrolled me in the YMCA. It was about four blocks down the street. So, I was in the second and third grades there while Dad was over there. I learned how to swim at the Y. I learned how to shoot pool [laugh]. My aunt worked in the plumbing department and on Saturdays, I would go down and go to the Western movies at the YMCA and then go over to my aunt's place. She got off at noon, and we'd go see a Roy Rogers movie, or a Gene Autry movie. They were my favorites. Of course, Gene had a ranch in southern Oklahoma. They had a big parade in Oklahoma City one time, and I went out. I had my little beanie with the little stuff hanging on it [gestures] and so forth. I was down there to see Gene Autry. The police didn't bother us too much. I ran out onto the street, and I was pulling on his pant leg [gestures], said, "Hi, Gene!" [laugh], you know. And that picture came out in the *Oklahoma Times* newspaper.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Campbell: And I've got that. Where I was standing there and Gene's sitting on his horse, going

down the parade. And the police never—And as soon as I did that, he said, “Better move over.” And so, I got off the side [laugh]. But that was kind of a highlight for me, you know?

My grandmother favored my sister, who was three years younger. My grandpa, he was a leasing agent for oil companies. He would go out looking for oil leases and lease land where, you know, they could pump oil—put a pump on, and that. She wasn’t in school, so they would take her with them on all the trips. Grandma would go with him on these trips all around Oklahoma. And they became really close. Well, my aunt felt like I was being cheated [laugh], so she was the one who took me to all the movies on Saturday. So, they kind of looked out after us kids because we didn’t have a dad there to do that. And that was really, really swell.

And to go to church, Mom would—Sunday was the only day—she worked six days a week. Sunday was the only day that she had off and she just rested. She got us up, dressed us in time to go to church. We’d gone on a city bus that went about a mile up the road. My aunt went to the church, and she would meet us at the bus stop at the church and we’d go to church that way during World War II. That’s another memory I had.

I remember we wanted to take some pictures and Grandma and Grandpa didn’t have a camera. We didn’t have a camera. So, I went to all the businesses up and down the street, saying, “I’m saving newspapers. Can you save your newspapers for me? I’ll pick them up weekly.” And about two blocks up the street from the school was a place that bought newspapers, penny a pound. I had a little red wagon, and I loaded that wagon every week, went up there. I would tell everybody, “I’m saving these newspapers to buy a camera to take a picture of our family to send to Dad over in Germany.” It was a little Pony camera, cost \$7.00. I saved enough money picking papers to buy a camera. We took pictures and sent those pictures to Dad. To me, that was something that—I missed my dad. I nearly failed the second grade. I just wanted him home so bad. I was just sure some German was going to shoot him. But he made it back. I just wanted him to see my sister and I and Mom, that we were okay, and send him some pictures.

Interviewer: When you were thinking about your dad and your fear for him and your concern, were you following what was happening in the war? Were you reading his letters? How did you keep up with [crosstalk 00:19:04]?

Campbell: Yeah, I read his letters. We didn’t have a newspaper. I would, every once in a while, look in the newspaper over at Grandma’s house and just read articles. And Grandpa sometimes would talk about what the news had said on the radio, and so forth. But I didn’t know anything about Germany. I didn’t know the various towns that their medical squad had to be at, you know. I just knew that he was up there where the fighting was and it wasn’t in hospitals. That’s what really, really worried me.

Interviewer: When his letters came, did they have any censoring on them?

Campbell: No, it was like a postcard. It wasn’t in an envelope.

Interviewer: I want to go back to the barber shop that you were living in. You said it was abandoned. Do you have any sense of how your mother got it, or was it because your grandparents had said, “Hey, here’s an abandoned barber shop”? Did you have an address?

Campbell: Yeah. Well, the guy, the barber had passed away and nobody wanted to take over his business. And so, it was open, it was available. So, my grandfather went over and talked to the people and told my mom, he says, “Hey, we can get this for a reasonable price, and if you don’t have enough money to pay the rent,” he said, “I’ll help you.” And I don’t know whether they did or not, I wasn’t into that side of the business [laugh]. But we did move in, and we lived there for a while. And there was shops on each side of us. It was a—just little, I don’t know what kind of shops. I don’t even remember. But on down was an alleyway, between the major streets, about halfway. And in that alleyway, there was a house there that had been abandoned, or was available for sale or for rent. And somehow, we wound up moving into that house. It was a little two-bedroom home and had a bathroom [laugh] and a tub. We lived there for probably the last six months of when Dad was gone.

Interviewer: I see. So, living in the barber shop, you said you ate your meals at your grandparents’ house.

Campbell: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, would you go over there at regular mealtimes or just anytime to grab a snack?

Campbell: Well, we did—Somehow, we came up with an icebox. And back then, the ice man would deliver ice. There was a cardboard thing, it had twenty-five, fifty, fifteen whatever pounds. Whatever you put at the top, that’s how many pounds of ice you wanted on the delivery date. So, he would bring that ice in and put it in the icebox. And I think we had a milk jug, maybe a water jug. I don’t know what all Mom kept in there, but sometimes we would just have cereal for breakfast over, you know, before going to school and for her going to work. But the major meals, yeah. In the evening, especially. She may have kept sandwich meat in there, I don’t know. But she wasn’t home during the day, so—And I was at school, my sister was at Grandma’s, so [laugh] the evening meal was the main one, and that’s where we ate with them.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about a typical weekday, from getting up to going to school, and then when your mother left, and that sort of thing?

Campbell: Well, we were back in the back, behind one of those big drapes, and we slept on cots, army cots. That’s all we had. And they were okay. I mean, to me, that was a nice bed [laugh]. Mom would wake us up and she’d get ready. Sometimes, she’d just take my sister over to Grandma’s and then come back and maybe we’d have a bowl of cereal, or she may have bought something at a store. We could just have a glass of milk and a little something to eat and I’d go off to school. And then she would get off work. Her work was either 5:00 or 5:30 in the evening, and school was out at 3:00, so I would [laugh]—Sometimes, I would come home and get my tolley and my deckers—You may not know what that is, but a tolley is a marble that you can shoot, and the deckers are what you put

into the ring to shoot at. And on the school grounds, there was a couple of guys up there that we would all play marbles. We weren't supposed to play keeps We were supposed to just come and leave with what we had, but I always came home with a full pocket of marbles. I spent a lot of my time on the school grounds, just killing time, you know.

Interviewer: Right.

Campbell: But then I'd come back to Grandma's house.

Interviewer: What kind of a disciplinarian was your mother and grandmother?

Campbell: Well, my mother was a loving, loving person. She always wanted what was best for us and she was always willing to give so that we might have. My grandmother was very partial to my sister. In fact, one time—the only time—I did something, and she didn't think it was the right thing for me to do against my sister and she locked me in the closet [laugh]. When my aunt—When my mom found out about it, she talked to her mother and said, "Don't do that again." She said, "Well, you make him behave," [laugh]. And my aunt heard about it and, boy, that really troubled her. "That you got locked in a closet?" And she didn't like my grandmother ever since [laugh].

Interviewer: This is her mother?

Campbell: No, my aunt...

Interviewer: This is her mother-in-law.

Campbell: No, my aunt was my dad's sister.

Interviewer: That's right. So, she's the other side of the family.

Campbell: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Ah, I see.

Campbell: And she's the one that—She was kind of partial to helping me with understanding Dad and church and things like that. She was a lovely Christian, and she wanted us to grow up as Christians.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about your memories of Oklahoma City? You said you were living downtown.

Campbell: Yeah.

Interviewer: How big was it in those days? What kind of place was it?

Campbell: Well, we lived at 616 North Hudson. That's six blocks from Main Street downtown. Oklahoma City was a pretty good size building, a lot of building down there, a lot of

hotels downtown. I just remember it as a big place. The Y was about three blocks down, toward town. Hudson was a main street. The streets were one way. Hudson was going into town and the streets on both sides of Hudson were going away from town, so I could walk on and just stay on the sidewalk, get downtown with no problem. It's a big city, though. To me, as a kid, it was a big city.

Interviewer: Do you remember noticing if there were people better off or less well off than your family?

Campbell: In my family?

Interviewer: No, just in the city—

Campbell: In the city? Oh, well—

Interviewer: —compared to your family?

Campbell: [laugh] I guess today people would call us “poor trash” [laugh]. We just didn't have anything. I mean, Mom would buy me a pair of jeans or two and a couple of shirts and that's what I wore all school year. I didn't have any fancy clothes like a lot of the other kids at church. But that was okay. That didn't bother me. I was just me [laugh]. That was just us, you know? But in the third grade, my mom had—Before she got married, she was singing on the radio. She worked—sang for a men's clothing store, just kind of like two or three songs, you know, just as they did their announcements about suits and ties and all that. Well, she was a singer, and when I was in the third grade, the school up the block from us, she found out that they had a music program in the third grade. She enrolled me in the music program. She wanted me to be a singer [laugh], so she worked me harder than the teacher did [laugh].

In the fourth grade, we'd moved then. Dad came home from the service, and we moved out into a little town just outside of Oklahoma City on a three-bedroom—three-room house on a 160-acre farm. That was a neat place. My cousin had given us—given me a collie dog when we were out there. We spent a lot of time out in the woods. I had a BB—My dad gave me a BB gun when he got home. He was still working in a drug store in Oklahoma City, and he drove into Oklahoma City. But when we were out there in the fourth grade, Mom had worked with my voice so much and taught me a lot about music and singing that that little country school decided that we were going to have a play, and I became Uncle Remus and sang “Old Man River” [laugh]. They blackened my face and everything, you know?<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> “Uncle Remus” is the fictional title character and narrator of a collection of African American folktales compiled and adapted by author Joel Chandler Harris and published in book form in 1881. Harris was a journalist who lived in Atlanta, GA, in the 1870s and 1880s but grew up on a plantation where he listened to stories told by the enslaved population. “Old Man River” is a song written by Jerome Kerns with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II for the musical “Show Boat” which premiered in 1927. Any melding of the character “Uncle Remus” with the song “Old Man River” performed in Black Face (an offensive practice in which white people's faces are painted black so they can portray Black characters) would have been a product of the particular place and time being described by William Campbell. See this article on “Ol' Man River” for more information: <https://ig.ft.com/life-of-a-song/ol-man-river.html>

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:29:07].

Campbell: Yeah, and I sang “Old Man River.” So then in the fifth grade, we moved again, a hundred miles from Oklahoma City, farthest we’d ever been. And Dad bought a drug store down there. A guy he had worked for before he went into the service floated a loan to Dad to help him as a—You know how people feel about trying to help the military guys that went over to serve? Well, that was the situation between this druggist that owned the drug store down there when I was born. He helped Dad get into that drug store. Funny thing about it, the town was two thousand people, just a small little town. The town people decided that we needed a high school band. So, they hired an instructor and said, “Sic ‘em!” [laugh]. And he went around to the high school kids, and there wasn’t enough kids that understood in a band, so they dropped it down to junior high. Still not enough kids. They finally got down to the fifth grade, which is where I was, and there were fifteen of us in the fifth grade that wanted to be in the high school band [laugh]. That would never happen in a city, you know, but it happened in that little town.

So, most of the kids didn’t know much about music, but I had had the voice training and so forth. We took little Tonettes and learned how to read scales and all this kind of stuff and they started a band. I chose the trombone once we got off the Tonette. So, it was a trombone. I couldn’t even reach the sixth position on the trombone. I was small, fifth grade. We did okay as a marching band. We really did. But as a concert band, we couldn’t read new music well enough to score high [laugh]. But we could learn the marches and march in the band. And here were the trombones—At that time, they all stood on the front row of the band, you know, and then the majorettes out in front and the leader. Well, here we are [gestures], a senior, couple of juniors, and a fifth grader [laugh]. The height on the first row [gesture], and so forth. But I learned how to play that trombone. I later learned that my uncle, Benny Harris, he used to play for Jack Teagarden.<sup>2</sup> He was a first trombonist for Jack Teagarden. He was in a car accident. I never got to meet him. But I chose that instrument.

Interviewer: [laugh]

Campbell: So, my aunt sent me a bunch of her husband’s stuff.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Campbell: There were out in California at the time.

Interviewer: I want to return to the war years. You said you would find out news about the war in different places, from teachers and things like that.

Campbell: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Can you a little bit about how the war you on the home front? [inaudible 00:32:19]

---

<sup>2</sup> Jack Teagarden was a jazz trombonist born in 1905. See this article for more: <https://jackteagarden.net/>

involved? How did your family contribute?

Campbell: Well, I seem to remember that the war was three parts: Italian, German, and Japanese. I remembered about Pearl Harbor, all the news and everything, and I wondered, “Why?” Why would they want to do that? Why would they want to come in and blow up an island like that and attack America? That bothered me. My uncle, in that little town that had the horses, his son was called to the military, and he was over in Okinawa and some of those places where the Japanese were fighting. I was hearing some things about that going on for the Japanese once in a while. Also, the German situation. And then, all of a sudden, the Italians gave up. So now it was the Germans and the Japanese. And I just wondered, “Why?” I couldn’t understand why people want to fight each other and not just live in harmony, you know? And that really bothered me because we were a peaceful family. We were just trying to make ends meet. Money was never anything that we had much of and we just kind of—We got by week to week pretty much. But I didn’t get into a lot of details about the fighting going on. All I knew is, you know, they would take a city and we would do inruns around—you know, some of the stuff that the paper would talk about, how the Americans overcame a town in Germany. Stuff like that.

Interviewer: Right. Did you have to ration?

Campbell: Oh, yeah. Yeah. We had little “mills,” we call them, a half a cent and a tenth of a cent mills to pay the taxes. We also had food stamps, basically, and Mom had signed up for all of that. I could never conceive—A penny seemed to be a lot of money to me, but then there was a half a penny and a tenth of a penny that you could also pay taxes when you buy something at the store. I just wasn’t into money except for the time I was collecting papers so I could buy a camera.

Interviewer: Did you see a ration book? Did your mom get [crosstalk 00:35:13]-

Campbell: Mom had a ration book. It was pages and pages and pages of stuff. She could get those because of our situation. Yeah. And then she—I remember there was no butter. But they sold a little—from the grocery store, they sold a little thing that was yellow, and you could mix this in with the margarine, and it would color it like butter [laugh]. It was a little—almost like a little plastic pill. You broke it and mix it up with the margarine to try to make butter. Or if the farmers—I remember them—they would milk their cows and save the butter out of the milk and the heavy milk and sell the regular milk to the stores that would bottle it and sell it to families. I remember I used to mix the butter stuff for Mom.

Interviewer: Did you contribute to any metal drives or old tires or something to contribute to the—

Campbell: No.

Interviewer: There was nothing like that in the city?

Campbell: Well, not for me. I mean, none of that was available.

Interviewer: So, your mom didn't have a car.

Campbell: Oh, no. We didn't have a car.

Interviewer: Did you grandparents have a car?

Campbell: Oh, yeah. He was traveling all over the state making leases—oil leases.

Interviewer: Did he have to figure out how much gas he could use?

Campbell: Yeah. They had something—The oil company had some kind of a deal to where the public had to ration gas, but Grandpa—because that was the business and the oil companies—I guess it's political. I didn't think of it at the time, but probably political that he could get more gas because that was his business, to get him to the job.

Interviewer: I see. Were there any military bases near Oklahoma City?

Campbell: There was one at—No, not near Oklahoma City. About a hundred miles away was a base down south of Oklahoma City and that's where they had a lot of boot camp. The first entry. That's where Dad went for his boot camp.

Interviewer: Did you see any troops on leave in Oklahoma City?

Campbell: Yeah, you'd see—My mother and my grandmother—Grandma, she loved to dance, and Mom went with her. They would go to these USO dances and there would be a lot of boys home on leave. They would be there to be partners and dance with the troops.

Interviewer: Where was the USO?

Campbell: In Oklahoma City, there.

Interviewer: Was it a building?

Campbell: Yeah, it was some—I never did go, so I don't know really where, but I think it was a big hotel downtown that had a big ballroom area. Yeah.

Interviewer: So, your mom and your grandma would go down there—

Campbell: Yeah.

Interviewer: —to dance with the service men?

Campbell: Yeah. Also, my grandmother, she had two friends. The four of them would go together. They would go to these USO dances. And they did that—They enjoyed dancing, but they felt like they were contributing to the troops that are, not necessarily from Oklahoma, from all around when they were back on leave. I don't know.

Interviewer: Now, is it correct that you were a Boy Scout?

Campbell: Yes, later I joined the Scouts.

Interviewer: So that was after the war.

Campbell: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, we'll talk about that [crosstalk 00:39:17].

Campbell: I was in Cub Scouts first. But this is up in my junior high years.

Interviewer: Okay. I do want to ask you quickly about President Roosevelt. Do you have any memories of hearing him on the radio or thinking about him, seeing him in the newspaper?

Campbell: The only memory I have is my grandmother loved him. She would preach Roosevelt, Roosevelt, Roosevelt. I wasn't into political stuff, so I just heard her say what a great guy he was, so I believed it and that was it.

Interviewer: Do you remember his death?

Campbell: No.

Interviewer: Okay. What are your memories of the end of the war? Do you have any memory of the war coming to an end and celebrations, things like that?

Campbell: They had some celebration in Oklahoma City for the troops. A gathering, you know? They had speakers. I think—I don't even remember who the governor of the state was, but there was a bunch of high officials and all the troops that were available came down there. We went down to an outing, you know, and heard, "The war is over. Now we got to get back to being America." You know, just peace. Guys coming home looking for jobs.

Interviewer: Right. When did your father come home? Can you tell me about his return?

Campbell: It was kind of a surprise because he didn't let on that he was coming at that time, that he started home. I don't know why, but it was more of a surprise. And we learned that he went over and came back on a ship, so it took several days of transport time to get him back. I just remember Mom was real, real excited about him finally coming home. We were living in that house on the alley at that time. It was a time of jubilation, and I was going to see my dad, finally. I was really, really happy.

Interviewer: In those post-war years, how soon did you move away from Oklahoma City?

Campbell: Well, that's when Dad was looking for a job, and he got a job out at Southwest 29<sup>th</sup> Street, out west of Oklahoma City, at a drug store. We didn't want to stay downtown,

and Grandma and Grandpa were going to stay right where they were. Dad was taking the family over now, and so we moved out to that little three-room house on that big 160-acre farm. I went to fourth grade out there and part of the fifth. Dad drove into town. We got a car. He drove into town in this old '38 Chevrolet. It was a clunker. Anyway, we didn't farm the farm. There was two cows there that we milked and no other animals, except the dog that my cousin had given me, little collie. We just kind of all grew up together again and enjoyed, sort of, the country life.

Don't know how many people know, but on the western part of Oklahoma City, say twenty miles out, there is a corridor that runs southwest to northeast [gesture], and tornadoes love that area. When I was in the latter part of the fourth grade, Mom and I were at home on a Saturday. My sister—Dad went to work; my sister went to Grandma's. Mom looked out the window, down the southwest part of the pasture, and she saw this funnel. That little house sat here [gesture], the barn was about seventy-five yards out behind the big fence. We had a pigpen, a two-hole outhouse [laughs]—we didn't have an indoor toilet—and a chicken pen, in between. The cellar was behind the house. So, Mother went to the kitchen door and tried to turn the knob so that we could go out around to the cellar, and the wind was blowing so hard on the door that the friction of that little slide when you turn the knob, she couldn't do it. She couldn't get the door open. So, we went around to another door, went around the house the other way. Standing there, she's [gesture]—we're looking at this tunnel coming—she's doing this [gesture]—she was a hundred pound soaking wet; she was a tiny little woman. She's doing this with this thing [gesture], like this. And I'm holding on to my collie and supporting her, you know?

All of a sudden—you ever see something out of the corner of your eye that you don't know what it is, but you react? Well, I did. I reacted and I threw my arm up [gesture] like this. A piece come off of the barn door, the big two-by-four, and it was whirling in the thing. I put my arm up and it took a punch of meat out of my arm right here, just indented my—[gesture] like that. Blood just went everywhere. Mom saw—it knocked me down, and she saw me, and she saw the blood and she went to that door and [whomp 00:45:35] [gesture, laughs] she opened that door. Down my dog went, and then she got me down there. We closed that door and then we closed the door inside. There were two doors in that cellar. She lit a lantern and started working on me. Well, she had been around drugs; my dad was a druggist, Grandpa was a doctor. She knew how to patch things up. And she [undecipherable 00:45:57] first aid kit in the cellar. She lit a lantern, and here we are. Then we heard that train go over. I mean, it was a terrible sound. I heard that train for years, when I was sleeping. It went over, right between the house and the barn. It took the barn door off, and pieces of it were flying around. With the pigpen, the pigs were all wallowing in the mud, they were okay. Our outhouse, we never found it [laughs].

Interviewer: Oh my—

Campbell: It just disintegrated. And the chicken pen, feathers were all in the trees back in there for yards and yards and yards. We were down there, so after a while, Mom said, "Well, let's go out and see what all has been damaged." The house wasn't touched. They patched me

up and I got over that.

Interviewer: So that was common, though, tornadoes—

Campbell: Oh, that was tornado alley, yeah. Don't know how much Oklahoma history that you know, but just below Oklahoma on the way to Norman, where the university is—that's where I went to school—Moore, Oklahoma, has been in two or three tornadoes. It's in that northwest-southeast [gesture] alley.

Interviewer: Now, you had rheumatic fever at thirteen.

Campbell: Yeah.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about that?

Campbell: Well, at thirteen, we had moved from this little two thousand town up to—this my seventh-grade year. And then in the eighth grade, I was—back then, we had the eighth and ninth were junior high—and I had just made first-string catcher on the baseball field. Boy, I was—I'd really worked hard. And I love baseball. One day the coach says, "Bill, what—are you okay?" I hit the ball and I was running to first base, and it seemed to him like it took me forever to get to first base and I should have made it, easy. But they threw me out. And he says, "Are you okay?" I said, "Well, yeah, I guess." And my right knee started swelling, got big. Dad, he called his dad who was in a little town below, and said, "Here's his symptoms." And Grandpa said, "I'm coming up there. I'm going to examine him." By that time, my right ankle [gestures] had swollen, my whole leg was big. Then it went over to my left knee and my left leg [gestures]. My heart started—it finally had doubled its size with rheumatic fever.<sup>3</sup> And Grandpa, when he examined me, he said, "I think he's in the beginning stages of rheumatic fever. We're putting him in the hospital." And they did, immediately.

I was in the hospital for two weeks, laying on that hospital bed. I could not get up, period. I had to lay there. Bedpans became my friend [laughs]. Oh, it was awful. And I had the cutest little blonde nurse, though. She was my—I just loved her to death, you know. Anyway, she would rub [gestures], put this ointment on my legs and give me rubdown and talk to me about, "Oh, you're going to get over this," give me all kind of good spirit, you know, and everything. Then they sent me home. At that time, the doctors were transitioning on how to handle the rheumatic fever. I didn't know anything about it, but say, "Your heart [gestures] will start going back to its size, but a lot of times you have stretch marks and they will cause problems with your heart later on in life." Kind of like a woman's stomach [gestures] when she has a baby, you know, the stretch marks you see there, that's the way the heart he said, the way he talked about it.

I was in—that happened before Easter, right at the beginning of baseball season. So, I was in bed, I don't know, sometime up into the summer at home after I got out of the hospital. I could get up the first week or two, seemed like I could get up one time to go

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/rheumatic-fever/symptoms-causes/syc-20354588>

to the bathroom and right back to bed, all the time. They rented a hospital bed that would raise up and down [gesture] and you know, all these things you do. They put me in the front bedroom by the windows, and I could see the kids walking to school. Oh, I just wanted to be one of them so bad. I missed about the second half of that semester. I got to go to promotion, but they rolled me in on a wheelchair, and so forth. And they excused—oh, I did homework from my bed, and I went ahead and graduated from the eighth grade. So, during the summer, as things eased on, I got to get up couple times a day, and then, finally, I could—as long as I didn't walk too much, I could, so. I enrolled in the ninth grade that fall. About a year later, the doctor says, "Your heart's got back. It's not quite where it was. It's bigger now, and your blood pressure has gone down," because it had been about 72 beats a minute, now it's about 53 or 54 beats a minute. He said, "You're going to have a stronger heart. There are no negatives, the way the heart has been treated." They went from starving me to feeding me everything I would eat. That was the transition the doctors were making on handling rheumatic fever at that time. I gained thirty pounds, and I grew three inches during that year, and came out of it. The doctor said, "In a year's time, do whatever you're big enough to do."

Interviewer: Wow. So, you had some extracurricular interests here. You were building model airplanes?

Campbell: Yeah.

Interviewer: How did you get interested in that?

Campbell: Well, my cousin was older than I. When I was in junior high, he was about ten years older, and he had just gotten a job as a pilot for Delta. I remember going over to his house, and I could see these big planes hanging in the hallways and out on the back porch. He had built a big six-foot wingspan. And boy, I was really impressed with that. So, I talked Mom and Dad into buying me a kit, and I built a six-foot Cleveland Condor Glider. When we moved from the seventh grade to the eighth grade and—had our first home ever. Dad got the GI bill, and he was paying \$48 a month rent to pay the thing. \$5000 house, back in 1950-whatever. They put—I built this when we was—before we moved into that home. In the transition of moving—Dad was at work, Mom was loading stuff and hauling it over in the car. Well, she put my airplane in the back windows and the span was wider than the car. The tip went outside, so she rolled the windows down. And when she took off [gestures], they lifted and my model went [makes crashing sound, laugh]. And so, that was the end of my glider [laughs]. But I had loved airplanes all that time, and I just thought, "Might be kind of nice to be an aeronautical engineer someday."

Interviewer: That's sort of what got you into it. So, where did you attend high school?

Campbell: In Putnam City High School. It was the northwest part of Oklahoma City.

Interviewer: What did you expect to do after high school?

Campbell: Go to college. I was hard over. Mom, Dad [shrugs], they tried to help me, but—Mom

would package up some groceries. My first semester I stayed at home. Dad turned the garage into a little bedroom, and I stayed there, but that didn't work. I had to drive to school every day and it was about twenty miles to college. Then I moved up there and got a bedroom in the back of an old lady's house and paid her rent, across the street from this college. Stayed there for two years, little college called Central State, north of Oklahoma City. Then, to get it—I did all of my undergrad stuff, you know, English and History and all these courses. Then I got into my majors, I transferred to the University of Oklahoma, and got married my junior year, so we moved into parental housing. It was old Navy barracks, at the university there.

I worked all the time when I was in the—First two years, I worked with a trucker that would go down to Oklahoma City and pick up goods for the little town offices around whenever, and they'd deliver the goods, and I would run the dolly and deliver the goods into the store while he went in and took care of the paperwork. I did that for two years and just made enough money to keep going. My girlfriend at the time, later would be my wife, her father was working for Addressograph Multigraph Company.<sup>4</sup> And they were in a transition where when people would go into the filling station and they'd give them a card, and they would [gestures] compress a little thing, stick a card in here, compress a little thing, it used to work off of purple ink, and it was really, really messy. They wanted to convert this to where the paperwork that they would put in and write how much the transaction was for gasoline, they wanted to put a—what is it, you call it—two pages, with in between the pages a piece of stuff makes the writing come through on the second page. I can't think of the name of that.

Interviewer: Yeah, I'm blanking, too.

Campbell: Yeah, anyway, they were transitioning from this ink to this two-page thing, so they'd put the credit card in there and do that [gestures]. He had ten thousand of those they had to transfer from ink to this new way of doing it. He would bring them up in boxes, twenty at a time, to the college. And this lady that I was living at in her place, she had a garage and there's nothing in the garage except a bunch of tables, so that was my [gestures, laugh] place to put all twenty of these. I'd take them all out of the boxes [gestures] and do one thing at a time on each of them, go around, and call him and he'd come and get them, bring me twenty more. I did ten thousand of those. He paid me \$1 a piece for them. So, I made a lot of college money there.

Interviewer: So, you paid your way through college—

Campbell: Oh, I did, yeah.

Interviewer: —okay, with these series of jobs.

Campbell: Well, I got a couple of support-type things that the school would offer. If you needed money, you could apply, and they'd give you some help with the school expenses.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.madeinchicagomuseum.com/single-post/addressograph-co/>

Interviewer: Before I go into your education, can you tell me about meeting your wife and then getting married?

Campbell: Well, I met her—I was a senior at Putnam City High School, she was a sophomore. So, when I was doing my first two years, she was going up, junior and senior. She was valedictorian at her senior year. And we had met—I was in the boy's glee club and the overall chorus, boys and girls, and we were away at a musical festival up in Enid, Oklahoma, way north of Oklahoma City. We were there with a lot of other choristers from other schools around and it was a big musical get-together. We were learning some new music and we were going to sing for the people that would come to listen to us, as a giant chorus. We had broken from the morning session, and they said, "Go get some lunch." So, I was driving at the time, and my buddy and I, we had ridden up together; he didn't have a license, so we rode up together. And we were just driving down and there's this girl [gestures] standing on the corner there. I noticed she was from our school, but I didn't know her. She was in the choir, but she was a sophomore, and I was a senior, you know. I didn't really know her that well, just knew of her. And she was standing there, so I stopped and said, "Are you waiting for somebody?" She said, "Well, I thought somebody was going to come by here and pick me up, but I've been here for about fifteen minutes." I don't know why I remember this, the details [laughs], but there she was. Well, I said, "We're getting ready to go to lunch. Why don't you go with us?" So, we did. We went to lunch, and that's where I met her, really, to learn her name. We dated from then on.

She graduated from high school, and we were going together to a church there, across the street from the little township we were in. It was the headquarters of the Nazarene college and the Nazarene church there. So, we started going together there. I was in the Church of Christ at the time, and she wasn't. She was in a Methodist church, a little something. So, we agreed that, "Why don't we just go to the Nazarene church here? It's local." And so, I did. And we just decided, "Let's get married." So, just before I started my junior year, we got married and moved into housing that was the old barracks-type housing down at the University of Oklahoma.

Interviewer: And what was her name?

Campbell: Kaye.

Interviewer: Are you still married to—

Campbell: No. That lasted twenty-three years. I'm married to Miriam now. We sort of [gestures] departed.

Interviewer: Well, tell me, at school you were studying aeronautical engineering.

Campbell: When I went to the university, yeah.

Interviewer: And you finished college. And then where did you apply to work?

Campbell: Well, let me back up one step.

Interviewer: Sure.

Campbell: While I was in college at the University of Oklahoma, two summers there, I worked in the oil field as a roustabout. We helped the guys that worked on pump—the actual oil pumps when they'd put them all together, pumping oil. Well, we did all the groundwork around, kept the lawns mowed. We would hook up the pumps to the big oil tanks. We were working with four-inch pipe, threading it and so forth and working, doing all the piping and stuff, you know, like that. But that's a roustabout. We weren't a roughneck. The roughnecks worked on the pumps themselves. I worked one summer there to make money to go to college. Another summer at the university, I worked in a ladies' dress shop and a men's clothing store next door to each other. I was sort of the janitor. I worked while I was in school that summer. Then, now to get back to your question—

Interviewer: When you finished your schooling, you started applying for jobs.

Campbell: Okay, applying for jobs. Well, at that time there were thirteen aerospace companies in existence. I think I sent out ten resumés to all of those. Lockheed gave me the best offer of all. Boeing was second, in Wichita, Kansas, but that was too close to Oklahoma [laughs]. I wanted to go west because most of our family had moved to the west coast, and we were so poor, that's the last we saw them. We couldn't go on vacation out there; we didn't have the money. So, I said, "This is going to be an opportunity to go to work, best paying job, see relatives, and take it from there, see what happens." So, I picked Lockheed in Burbank, California. That's when—I was telling these guys [gestures to film crew]—about two years—that was in 1959 I went to work. In 1962, NASA had been talking to our upper management, corporate people, and said, "You hired a bunch of guys in '59 and '60 in engineering, and they're all bachelor's degrees. You need to up their levels. We like to deal with higher level people in the technology business." So, Lockheed management picked thirty of us and sent us to Southern Cal University for ten courses. And they picked the courses, Lockheed did, that we took, and we got a master's degree out of Burbank. They gave us time off on Friday afternoon to go to the campus and take a course for four semesters and a summer semester. And then they'd send a professor for another course out to the Lockheed training center Tuesday nights, and we would take a course that way. So, we, for two and a half years, we got a master's degree.

Interviewer: How long were you in California?

Campbell: Well, I moved out there in '59 in August, and we moved to Georgia—I worked on a program out there that was a NASA program that—they wanted to see if, that we could come up with a Mach 3, three times the speed of sound, commercial airplane that could carry three hundred people from New York to Los Angeles in a couple of hours, Mach 3. So, I got to working on that program, and I was in charge of the wing design. Little did I know at that time, but there was a place across the runway from regular engineering called Skunk Works. Skunk Works was a highly, highly technical group of guys, very brilliant. They built things under high classifications, top secret, all that sort of thing. We

had secret clearances, but we couldn't go over there to do the top-secret stuff. But we didn't know it on my side; management knew it but none of us down in the working levels knew it. And they had already had a prototype flying at Mach 3 at 100,000 feet called the SR-71, spy in the sky airplane. They sent that airplane all over the world, took pictures of Russia, China, Korea, this place, that place. Lot of times they were shot at by missiles, never got touched. Pilots would just firewall it, climb on out, and the missile would come up and go back down [laughs]. So, those people were trying to help us with our NASA design. Since I was in charge of the wing—it was right up front, and they were saying, “No, you don't have all you can get out of that wing. There's still more to come if you'll just listen to us.”

So, they finally sent me to NASA in Virginia—Langley, Virginia. I took three of their big high-speed models and tested them in the wind tunnels at NASA for six weeks. I was cornered there, sending the data back to California for our engineers to look at and massage. Finally, we had a big meeting; first time I met some of the guys over there. We started talking about details of the design. Come to find out that they designed the SR-71<sup>5</sup> for Mach 3 at 100,000 feet cruise. Commercial airplanes can't go faster than—higher than 60,000 feet, and they didn't know that. So, they were designing our airplane at 100,000 feet. And when you bring that airplane down to 60,000 feet, the leading edge camber, curvature in the leading edge between the engine and the fuselage, was drag at 60,000 feet. It wasn't lift [gestures] as it was at 100,000 feet. When they found that out, they backed off [laughs]. We had the best design. And that airplane just about covered the field, that was a little comment that we had made. The head, the no—imagine [gestures], a circular body for supersonic flight to carry three hundred people had to be pretty long. And it was almost football—in the goal lines in length, wingspans were almost at the sidelines. That's how big an airplane it would be. And what we did is when we tested models that were three or four feet long in a supersonic tunnel, it was an awful lot of stuff that goes on to take that data and expand it to full scale.

I learned a lot about that aerodynamic detail. So, when they started the C-5<sup>6</sup> here in Georgia, they transferred me here because that, again, was another big airplane. Small models, big airplane. And I knew the aerodynamic pathway of—So, in 1967, they transferred me here.

Interviewer: What did you know about the history of the Lockheed plant in Marietta?

Campbell: In Marietta? Well, when they moved the C-130 here, it wasn't the Lockheed plant; it was a Bell Bomber plant. Later, they started building C-130s, and the first two C-130s were built in Skunk Works, at California. They transferred that down to a group that was known as the Bell Bomber people but were Lockheed people. Finally, Lockheed just bought them out. Then they built the C-141, which was longer than the C-130, and it was a jet engine, not a propeller. Then they built, starting the C-5, and that's when they transferred me here to help with the C-5 design.

---

<sup>5</sup> [https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/lockheed-sr-71-blackbird/nasm\\_A19920072000](https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/lockheed-sr-71-blackbird/nasm_A19920072000)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/products/c-5.html>

Interviewer: I see. So, how long did you work there at Lockheed?

Campbell: Forty-one years.

Interviewer: And where do you live today?

Campbell: I've lived in three different homes from the time I moved here in '67 to now.

Interviewer: And do you want to tell me about your family today?

Campbell: Well, in California, those seven years that we were out there, we had a son, David, and a daughter, Denise, in '61 and '63. And they, today, are beautiful, beautiful people. My daughter has been in a ladies' trio. They finally disband after almost ten years, but they were professional singers. They sang pretty much pop music and some church music; they're all Christian ladies. They've sung all over the Southeast. Her husband, Brian, went to the same Sprayberry High School, just over the road there, and he was one of the three guys on the wrestling team that were state champions. Those guys were amazing. They never once worried about getting beat in a meet. What they would bet each other on is who's going to pin their guy the quickest [laughs]. She married that guy; he was a couple of years older than her. He's in a business now that—they live up on Lake Lanier. They have a big fancy home. He's done very, very well. Computer science major from Georgia. My son's a computer science major, and he worked for thirty years for a drug company, McKesson, and he just got retired, so he's going to start his own business now. He's not old enough to retire yet, so [laughs]. My daughter, she's married to the guy that's living up on Lake Lanier, and they're doing very well. My son is an elder at the First Baptist Church in the valley out here. We're a close Christian family. We've got grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Interviewer: Well, Mr. Campbell, before we finish, I just want to ask you—You've sort of shared your life story, but you spoke about your experiences during the war, so what does it mean to you to share your World War II story? Does that have special meaning to you?

Campbell: Well, it makes me go back and think about, see how much I can remember [laughs] of the things—When you came out and talked to us at the Kiwanis club, that started me thinking about all that. Then you said, “Well, would you come and share those—?” And here we are today. I have a real place in my heart for veterans. While I was in high school, I joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard, and I had an eight-year obligation. I was in the Guard there for—And they, you were only signing up for three-year at a time, but you had to stay in eight years, somehow. So, you had three-year re-ups and one one-year re-up. So, three and three and one didn't make eight; it was much beyond eight. And three and one wasn't—So what I did is I had to do three three-year three-ups and I had to join the California Air National Guard. Then, in my music career, when we were out in California, I became not a minister of music, but I felt a calling from God. And I didn't want to be a preacher. I was praying, “Oh, don't call me to that preacher.” He said, “No, I'm not calling you to that. I'm calling you to lead music in the church.” He said, “You've got a fantastic music background. You play the trombone; you've sung all this time you [undecipherable].” All the times I was out in California, two or three

different churches, I led the music, led the choir, sang solos, you know. I guess I had more music background than anybody at the church at that time. So, we moved here, down below Roswell Street Baptist Church is a little Nazarene church, which we were Nazarenes at the time. And we—well, they had me leading the music there for several years. And I—There came a time that we were going to the Nazarene church but living out near Chastain, all the way down the town. And our kids weren't going to school and to church with the same group. We thought, "You know, it's not fair to our children not to be able to be with their friends like that," because—to go to church, those guys in Marietta down there, they really weren't friends, you know, where you do things with them. So, we moved out and we visited a little church over—about 200 strong. The pastor found out that I had a music background and he said, "Well, we really need some music help." He says, "Let me talk to you about it, and then, if you're in agreement, I'd like for you to consider maybe taking over the leading of the church music." Then Piedmont Baptist Church on Piedmont Road. So, the next Sunday, he had me leading the choir, singing a solo, leading the congregation. He met with the deacons that afternoon and came over to the house and said, "You're hired." I said, "No, I have a job. I'm working Lockheed." He said, "No, but you're going to be on the staff and we're going to pay you." So, I thought, "Well, I've never been paid to do this before." Anyway, that lasted for five years, and I said, "Look, to take the youth choir on a tour of around the state of Georgia for a week, that takes of my weeks of family away from my family for vacation time." Lockheed, I had two weeks of time. And I said, "Look, you've got to replace me. I can't teach voice. I can't teach other instruments. And the church needs, you know, we're growing." So, finally he got us somebody else and the church was growing; it went from 200 to 750 in that five years plus time. And just, they built a new church, everything. And I finally got out [laughs]. So now I'm in the choir and I'm happy. I'm not having to lead anything anymore. I'm eighty years old and enjoying life.

Interviewer: Well, Mr. Campbell, I want to thank you for sharing your story with me today, and we'll conclude there.

Campbell: Okay.