

COBB COUNTY ORAL HISTORY SERIES

NO. 3

INTERVIEW WITH CECIL FREY BULLARD

CONDUCTED AND EDITED BY

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Cecil Frey Bullard is a native and lifelong resident of Cobb County. Born on October 14, 1900 to Calvin J. Bullard and Narcissus Frey Bullard, he attended A&M School (now McEachern High School) in Macland. Mr. Bullard and his wife, Lois Matthews Bullard reside in the Bullard homeplace, a pre-Civil War house on Dallas Highway. For 47 years, Mr. Bullard was employed by the Cobb County Sheriff's Department.

MC = Mary B. Cawley CB = Cecil F. Bullard

MC Tell me about when you were born, and who your mama and daddy were.

CB [I was born on the] 14th of October, 1900. My daddy was Calvin J. Bullard and my mother was Narcissus Frey Bullard.

MC Your grandmother was a Frey? Is that like "Frey" in Frey's Gin Road?

CB Yes.

MC Where was your daddy from? Was he from Cobb County?

CB I don't think he was born here. I think it was from some other...well, I don't know where it was. I used to hear them talk about Louisiana. Somewhere, I've heard them talk about that.

MC So you know at least you have relatives there.

CB Yes.

MC Was your mama from Cobb County, because the Frey's have been here a long time.

CB Yes.

MC When you were born, what was your daddy doing at that time? Was he a farmer?

CB Farming.

MC Was he farming here in West Cobb?

CB Farming here on this place.

MC Right off of Dallas Highway?

CB When they married, they had 29 dollars. We lived down on Casteel Road--they did. I was born here on this same farm. There was eight boys, two girls.

MC Your brothers and sisters?

CB Everytime we made a little money, we bought extra.

MC A little more land?

CB [Yes, we bought] more land.

MC So, by the time you were grown, say, 17 or 18 years old...

CB At 18 I was an officer of Cobb County. In 1918, I was bailiff of Cobb County.

MC Did you go to school?

CB I went to A&M College at Macland.

MC At Macland? Was that an agricultural school?

CB Yes.

MC What age were you when you did that?

CB Well, my daddy got sick, and I went through junior [year]. [I] didn't go back after that. [I] didn't get much schooling.

MC Where did you go to grade school and high school?

LB Same place.

MC All at A&M?

CB Yes.

MC Is that McEachern [High School] today?

CB Yes. It was a boarding school.

MC Were you a boarding student?

CB I boarded.

MC That was how far from here?

CB Three miles.

MC You would go when--in September?

CB About then I guess. We boarded there, and we had to work so many hours to help take care of expenses.

MC What kind of work did you do to help take care of expenses?

CB Agriculture.

MC Do you mean the school itself owned a lot of land in Macland?

CB Yes.

MC And they raised crops?

CB Yes.

MC You learned by doing it?

CB (Laughter) I didn't learn it there. I learned right here.

MC So, you boarded from what month to what month? You would go, say, in September?

CB I imagine that was about it.

MC And then you would come home at the end of the school year, which was when? About what month, summer time?

CB Yes, it was in the Spring.

MC In Spring? And then in summer, you worked here for your daddy?

CB Yes.

MC Doing what kinds of things?

CB [I did] general work, general farming.

MC What kinds of crops did he raise?

CB [He raised] everything that we could eat; we were sure we made that. Then we had tenants here on the farm. We saw that they grewed enough stuff to take care of thereselves and us too. [We] never bought nothing. Traded a little eggs and butter for coffee and sugar and something. The grocery store didn't mean nothing to us.

MC What about clothes and things like that? Did your mama make those or did you buy them?

CB She made 'em.

MC So, you just had almost no shopping needs at all, did you?

CB No shopping.

MC When you did buy, where did you go to buy things, whatever few things you had to buy?

CB In Marietta.

MC How about the little Lost Mountain Store? Did you ever go there?

CB Oh yes, but not to buy anything. We went to Marietta and bought brogan shoes. That's what we had for Sunday and everyday too. My mother made shirts, socks, quilts, everything we needed.

MC Where did she buy the fabric and yarn and the things she needed to sew with? Did she get those in Marietta?

CB She had a great person there in Marietta that was-- the Fair Store. They was pretty close. They seemed to be pretty active with each other.

MC What was that person's name, do you remember?

CB I don't.

MC Did your daddy raise a money crop?

CB Oh, yes.

MC What was his money crop?

CB Cotton. Potatoes.

MC Where did he sell his cotton? In Marietta?

CB Yes. The cotton went to the gin.

MC Where was the gin that you used?

CB [It was] right up the road here, just one mile. Due West [Road]. Kemp's.

MC Is that Solomon Kemp, by any chance?

CB Yes.

MC That must have been Due West--almost at Burnt Hickory, right around in there?

CB Yes. It was right there at Due West Community Club--right there at the school.

MC Where all those roads come together?

CB Yes. We didn't buy nothing. Went to Perkerson's Mill to have the wheat and corn ground.

MC Where was Perkerson's Mill?

CB Austell.

MC Oh, now that was a long way, wasn't it, at that time?

CB Yes.

MC How did you get there?

CB [We went by] wagon.

MC Did you go down Casteel Road, or did you have to go into Marietta, or how...?

CB No, we went Powder Springs....

MC Down through Powder Springs, and over?

CB On down.

MC Would that be a day's trip?

CB Oh, yes.

MC Would you have to leave the wheat there and have it ground and then go back and pick it up later?

CB No, usually they did it for us at that time. We was always sure that the tenants had stuff to eat, too.

MC How many tenants did you have?

CB Well, we had five tenants, but we worked a lot of labor help on up in the years. All of them were from Marietta. Mama wouldn't let them bring nothing to eat. She cooked it.

MC And fed them?

CB Yes, at dinner time.

MC How did you get those people to and from Marietta? Did your daddy drive a wagon and pick them up, and then take them back at night?

CB See, I had older brothers that done things back when we was doing all that.

MC So, your daddy had cattle, wheat, potatoes...

CB No, we had our cows, milk cows. We didn't sell any cattle.

MC Did you raise enough to eat yourself, or did you get beef from somewhere else?

CB No, we didn't get it. We raised it here.

MC So, you raised your own meat?

CB Oh, yes.

MC Did you raise pigs too, for pork?

CB Yes, hogs and chickens. My mother used to have a horse and buggy that she used to go to the boarding house and sell [eggs]. She picked up stuff that she needed in the kitchen.

MC Would she sell it, or would she trade it for things she needed?

CB Well, places that she could trade, she traded.

MC So, it would just be an even trade.

CB Well, yes. Of course, the boarding houses, they paid. They paid for it.

MC Where were the boarding houses in Marietta?

CB Let's see, Nichols. Nichols was one, and her son married Dick Dobbs, the mayor of Marietta. They went to New York and got independent rich--millionaires. And, Mrs. Tucker--she had three boarding houses.

MC Did your mother have any customers in Powder Springs or Smyrna?

CB No.

MC She just dealt in Marietta?

CB [Yes she just] dealt in Marietta.

MC Did you help her load and she went by herself, or did one of the children go with her to help?

CB Sometimes [she] would and sometimes [she] wouldn't. Talking about a little further on up, she had a horse she could leave anywhere. [She] had a buggy. [It] wasn't an old rubber-tired buggy either. It had steel wheels...steel-rimmed. She always was out there with the help after she got the dinner ready for them all.

MC When you talk about dinner, you're talking about a midday meal, aren't you?

CB Yes.

MC What would be a typical midday meal that she would fix.

CB Anything that we growed here. [She would fix] whatever growed here.

MC She would take it out to the field hands--to the people you brought out from Marietta--or would they come in?

CB They would have a place at noon to eat. They worked from sunup to sundown for practically no money or nothing. They were glad to work, too.

MC Do you remember how much they were paid?

CB I believe some of it was even 50 cents a day, then a dollar a day on up, clear on up.

MC Were your helpers that you brought out from Marietta mostly black, or were they black and white?

CB Either one, [or] both. We never separated as far as mixing, and worked as many blacks as we did whites. Most of the tenants, though, were white. The help that we could pick up would be more than likely black.

MC Do you ever remember having black tenants?

CB Oh, yes. But, there were more white than there were black.

MC Mr. Harvey Durham remembered that he had one black family that they were very fond of.

CB We never had no trouble with any blacks.

MC I think he did. I can't remember the fellow's name, but he had gotten into trouble and Mr. Durham said he had to go see Judge Hawkins and "stand" for him. I think he had to serve three months. Then they let the tenant out. I guess they sort of put him on "probation."

CB Yes. There were a good many blacks in Acworth. When you seen Harvey? He's pretty aged himself.

MC He's in good shape. He and his wife have a hard time getting around. He has to use a cane. Mrs. Durham was there, too. She has to use a walker.

CB There ain't a woman nowhere that's worked as hard as Mrs. Durham did. I don't see how in the world she done all she did.

MC Do you remember what grade you ended up in? Did you go about ten years?

CB I believe that would be it. It was junior and one more class at A&M. They come from all over everywhere to that school.

MC Did they?

CB Lord yes, it was a boarding school. Only one A&M school I know anything about, a boarding school anywheres around.

MC When did it stop being a boarding school, do you remember?

CB I don't believe I can tell you that.

MC Was the McEachern family involved with it even then?

CB Oh, yes. They were the promoter of it.

MC When you finished, when you got out of school...

CB I didn't get out, [because] I had to quit. My daddy was sick.

MC Oh, and he needed your help here?

CB Yes. It wasn't no trouble for me to quit either. (Laughter)

MC You mean, you felt about school like most of the kids today feel about school. (Laughter) So, you came back and you started farming to help your daddy, or did you at that point go and get your job?

CB No, we had a patch of ours that bought our clothes with, and paid our tuition at the school. We all--

three of us went to A&M. There were eight boys and two girls.

MC And three of the eight went to A&M?

CB Yes.

MC Were you all there at the same time?

CB No. Different. Me and my oldest brother, two years older, and the youngest, he did [go to A&M school. That was the only three that went. There's two years difference in eight boys.

MC When your daddy got sick, what you're saying is that there wasn't a lot of money for tuition.

CB Well, if there was [any money], it was put in property. Every time, they'd get a tract of land adjoining this place. I don't think they threw away no money.

I mean, we were liable for some of our dealings. We was interested in maybe an acre that could grow a bale of cotton. It would be our money that you could throw it away.

MC Why did you go to work for the county instead of staying in farming full-time?

CB Well, see, I was a bailiff here at that time. And I wasn't tied up all the time at that time.

MC You were just a part-time bailiff, whenever they needed you?

CB Well, yes.

MC You farmed the rest of the time?

CB Yes.

MC Oh, I understand.

CB The pay was about two dollars a day. That was a whole lot of money.

MC When would you have to do it, just when there was a trial?

CB Yes.

MC Do you remember the name of the first judge that you worked for, and what court you were in?

CB The J.P. [Justice of the Peace]? A.N. Mayes. I had two districts here, Lost Mountain and Oregon.

MC You were bailiff for the little district courts? You would only have to do that when they had trial dates or hearings?

CB Or [when they had] papers to be served, yes.

MC How old were you when you started doing that?

CB 18 years.

MC You did that for how long?

CB A good little bit. Then I went to work for the court.

MC The county court?

CB Yes. There wasn't much court then. We had about two courts a year. Now it's every day.

MC When you started with the court, was that at the courthouse in Marietta?

CB In Marietta. Then I was in federal court, too.

MC So you did federal court and state court?

CB Yes.

MC How about County Court? [Did you have] County Court, too?

CB [I had] Superior Court.

MC Who were some of the judges? Did you work with Judge Hawkins?

CB Yes.

MC What was he like?

CB He was all right. He had a lot of humor to him.

MC Did he?

CB Oh, boy, yes. Harvey Durham will tell you that. Yes, there was a lot of humor. Then, my mother's brother was Sheriff of Cobb County.

MC What was his name?

CB Will Frey.

MC Do you remember what year that was? Was that in the early 1900's?

CB Well, it was before I was 18. They had to serve papers. They didn't have no transportation except for wagons, I mean buggies. You know, we never knew what a doctor was except for one that was here, Dr. Aldrin or Dr. Wright, until automobiles. [We] never heard of automobiles back then.

MC Do you remember when you saw the first automobile out here in west Cobb? Who had it?

CB My brother, Bill's daddy [Bill Bullard].

MC Bill grew up out here in west Cobb too?

CB No, he didn't. [He grew up] in Marietta.

MC You had dirt roads and buggies?

CB [We] shore did. And [we had] wagons. We didn't get to Marietta much at that time. If we did, we walked. We was glad to even see a freight train back then.

MC Did you have to serve in the armed forces during the First World War?

CB No. I was fixin' to, though. By 1939, I was with the government five years.

MC What did you do with the government then?

CB I was the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief, too.

MC Of Marietta?

CB No...

MC Of the districts out here in west Cobb?

CB No, all the way from Atlanta and Sandy Springs and Macon and Warner Robins, down below Macon, and

Columbus, at three different jobs down there.

MC So, that was your whole area that you had to cover? Were you like a Federal Marshall?

CB I went with the projects that were being built at that time.

MC With the things that Roosevelt had put in after the Depression? The working projects, you're talking about, like the WPA and the CCC?

CB The contractors done the building. They had a contract with the government. Yes.

MC What was your job?

CB Chief of the Security. I worked nearly 200 [people] at Warner Robins.

MC You would go from project to project, wherever they were building at the time?

CB Wherever they sent me.

MC Did you have to foreclose on farms back in the '30's?

CB No.

MC You didn't have to serve those papers?

CB No, [but] I remember them.

MC Did people that you know have those kind of problems? I mean, did it happen in Cobb County?

CB I don't believe I can say. I don't think I remember any of it. They had a program that they was taken care of, in some way. I don't believe I'm going to be able to tell you just how they did it.

MC Were you able to keep a job during that period of time?

CB Well, I was working...yes.

MC You were working for the county then?

CB Yes.

MC How about the farm out here, was it doing all right, too?

CB Yes.

MC There were several businesses right around Marietta Square that failed.

CB Well, I remember that, too.

MC One of them, I think, was Daniels Jewelers...

CB Yes.

MC And Benson Motors.

CB Yes.

MC Do you remember them?

CB I shore do, and more than that. Let's see, they been a couple of automobile places.

MC Was there an Arnold Motor Company? I want to say B. Arnold? Is that name familiar?

CB Yes, but, B. Arnold, he was raised up here at the Lost Mountain Store. He went to Florida, Vero Beach, I believe he said.

MC Did you know him growing up?

CB Oh, lordy, yes. There was a bunch of them Arnolds at that time. Lord, yes.

MC Are there any Arnolds still here?

CB I don't believe there are.

MC With eight brothers, what did your brothers end up doing? You've still got this place; did they get some land from your daddy also? Are they around this area, or did they just scatter and go different places?

CB Well, I had two brothers up in New York. And then, I had Bill's daddy. He was a mule man, a mule

dealer.

MC In Marietta?

CB Well yes, in Marietta. He was in several different places, Bill's daddy was. Then, Herbert was a farmer until he retired from the county police.

MC He worked for the police, too?

CB For 30 years.

MC You worked for the police, and you had a brother that worked for them.

CB No. I worked for the sheriff; Herbert worked for the county police. He had tumor of the brain accumulated to cancer. Then I had two brothers that retired from the Gulf Refining Company; they both passed away. One of them stayed at Emory Hospital for a little over a year. The other one, he died in bed.

MC Did they live here in Cobb?

CB Yes, in the north. Harold lived over at Sandy Springs and A.G. lived here on Freyer Drive in Marietta.

MC During the first part of the war, when Rip Blair was mayor, and he and Jimmy Carmichael were working so hard to get the Bell Bomber plant, do you remember those days?

CB I reckon I do.

MC Tell me about it.

CB Well, if it hadn't been for my sheriff at that time...

MC Who was your sheriff?

CB George McMillan. He and Rip Blair and Jimmy Carmichael, they spent a lot of time getting the Bell Bomber plant here. And, they spent a lot of money, too. But they got it. Then, George McMillan ran for commissioner, county commissioner, and got elected.

MC He was elected after the bomber plant came?

CB Oh yes, after. I was at Brunswick, Georgia then. I was with the [federall] government at that time. Jimmy Carmichael and Rip Blair and George McMillan called me to Atlanta and wanted me to be the head man of protection.

MC Of Bell Bomber?

CB Bell Bomber. They wanted me to take that job. And I told them I couldn't do it on account of the colonel that was over me. I talked to Colonel Hogg and he, the colonel of the base, said, "Mr. Bullard, I don't want to get you away from home, but, I don't want you to take that job."

MC Where was Colonel Hogg from?

CB He was from Brunswick. He was in charge of that base down there. He says, "You've been with me now two years, and I've got attached to you and you do a swell job. I wish you wouldn't." So, I told Rip Blair and Jimmy Carmichael and George McMillan what he said, and George McMillan's brother taken it [the Bell Bomber job]. [His name was] Russell McMillan.

MC So, when Bell Bomber was here, were you still in Brunswick then?

CB No, I think I was down at, I believe it was a Navy base at Macon.

MC But, could you see the changes that the bomber plant brought to Marietta?

CB Oh lord, yes.

MC What kind of things happened when it came?

CB Well, they thought when Bell Bomber plant went broke or went out of business, that Cobb County would be dead. But Lockheed come in there. Dobbins Air Force Base, they were first. As soon as this one [Lockheed] taken over, why Cobb County's really been growing ever since.

MC When I'm talking about Bell Bomber, there were a lot of changes that happened when it came.

CB There shore was.

MC What are some of the things that happened when Bell Bomber opened up? A lot of new people [came]?

CB Yes. They didn't know what was going to happen until Lockheed got ahold of it. And just as soon as Lockheed got ahold of it, why then, they were hiring engineers from, not here, across the water and everywhere else. It's nearly unbelievable to see what the last 20 years has brought to Cobb County--to metropolitan Atlanta, I'd say.

MC When your nephew, Bill, took an interest in getting Ernest Barrett elected, did you take an interest too? Did you participate in that?

CB Ernest Barrett was raised over here in hollering distance of me.

MC You'd known him all his life?

CB Oh, I reckon I did. And Bill Bullard was campaign manager from start to finish. He [Bill Bullard] could have been a commissioner, but we out-talked him of it. And, God bless him, he didn't take it. Cobb County has changed. I don't know what name you'd call it but it's gone haywire now, gotten horrible. We'll be lucky to have a good place to live if it keeps on spending and getting bond issues passed. However, the government's done a lot for Cobb County. Now it's transportation. I know one thing: way back when I was a kid, my daddy said, "Now, you boys don't throw them pennies away", he said, "them pennies gonna be worth dollars some of these days." And damned if it ain't. (Laughter). He was thinking a good long way ahead.

CB You know that the front of this house here was in the Civil War. There's two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs. This back part is all built new. It was used as a hospital during the Civil War.

MC Bullards were living here then?

CB No. That was back in the Civil War.

MC Your daddy bought this place after the Civil War?

CB Oh, yes. This house and Lost Mountain Store is historic. They couldn't move this house and they couldn't move that store. But they've tried, since this highway here, they have tried to find the war property. They lack about a year being old

enough. But these two...

MC They are on the [National] Historic Register?

CB Yes, they are.

MC That's wonderful.

CB Yes, this one and Lost Mountain Store.

MC Mr. Arnold's family, did they run the Lost Mountain Store?

CB Yes. Judge Bartlett owns it.

MC And the Arnold family ran it?

CB [They] rented it, yes. And, Judge Bartlett, he died. And she [Mrs. Bartlett] married a Hutchinson. And he died. She's still living. They got an heir that owns that property now. The people that live there is letting her have two acres and the store as long as they live. The rest of it is all sold.

Well, let me get this far with you. The county may take some of my land. They may take it, but they can't take this house. (Laughter) I just called them a while ago. They got signs out there, and I didn't know what it was. I had a yard man, and he saw some signs out there this morning that the Water Authority had signed. They're putting down pipeline. He said there was going to be some construction work done on that road out there. And he said he'd put them signs for the water line. He said the water line comes right here.

MC [It is] in front of your property? Well, they're getting ready to widen this road too, aren't they? Four-lane it?

CB Well, it sure ain't gonna please us, nohow. They gonna put that center lane in there. If they do put it there, then we'll have to be going a mile or two to get to turn around and come back.

MC Mr. Durham didn't really have a chance to talk to us about "Boll Weevil" Henderson. Do you remember "Boll Weevil" Henderson?

CB Yes. I run the fair. I didn't run the fair, but I run the midway ever since they had a fairground.

MC When they would have the North Georgia Fair, you would run the midway?

CB Yes. One week. You know, Jim Miller, he's resigning as the county manager end of this month. He is a mighty close friend of mine. After I quit, he wanted to give me a job with the parks people. Do nothing but give me a car and just ride the 26 of them, I think.

MC Well you've got one [Oregon Park] right behind you.

CB Yes. It joins me right back there, and [they are] trying to buy mine now.

MC Are they trying to buy some land from you?

CB Yes, next to the park. They've got money; what the hell do they care? (Laughter). I was talking about that this morning. I been told, not by Jim Miller. I thought I would see him down at the rabbit supper the other week, but Jim wasn't there. I've been told by somebody, not that I can say, that he's [Jim Miller] going to run the fair for one week for \$25,000. I've been told that, but I haven't seen Jim. Me and Jim are mighty close.

MC Is the fair something that "Boll Weevil" Henderson started?

CB That's right.

MC He's somebody that I know nothing about. Tell me about him. I know he was a county agent.

CB Yes.

MC When was he a county agent? What years? Do you remember? Was it in the '40s? Or the '50s.

CB Back farther than that.

MC In the '30s?

CB There was a big piece in the paper about Grace Finland. She's been with us all the time. She's been with the fairground for 40 years. It's been over 40 years.

MC How did "Boll Weevil" get his nickname? Did everybody call him Boll Weevil?

CB His name was John Henderson. Okay. We grew a lot of cotton back in them days. And, they had an evening each week where the stores all closed. And they set places that had something for them to do. They brought boll weevils around from all over the county and checked 'em. Then, they would come out to pick cotton that evening. I guess that's where he got the nickname.

MC Where was he from?

CB He was raised above Cartersville somewhere. And, Boll, he done well. He'd get about [the county]. He'd see more people than the sheriff of Cobb County would. It was all agricultural then. And, he'd come by here and he'd stop.

MC Was he able to help the farmers keep that cotton market up?

CB Well, I couldn't tell you the market. I've seen that market get where it sold for fifty cents a pound. Then a person come along, and they got five cents a pound.

MC I think a lot of people lost their farms because of the cotton market.

CB Yes.

MC Is he the one that suggested trying things like dairying--dairy farming?

CB Yes, that's right. He did do that. Yes, and he went to the dairy people, too. I don't know how many dairies we did have in this county at one time. It was a slew of them.

MC What was he like? What was his personality like?

CB He was well liked. This is Boll Weevil: if you disliked him, he'd know something about it and you wouldn't be disliking him long. He was a person that could make contact even though you didn't like him or didn't agree with him. But I've seen 'em come back. I've seen it with judges. I've seen even lawyers that would be back friends. We were mighty close.

MC Was he kind of a colorful fellow? Did he have a colorful personality?

CB Yes.

MC Kind of outspoken?

CB Oh yes, he was that.

MC He originated the North Georgia State Fair?

CB Yes.

MC Did you have much to do with Atlanta?

CB Oh yes, we grew a lot of produce. And so, we'd go to Atlanta and sell. Maybe had good luck, [it would be all day and part of a night. But there was a stockyard down there that we'd put the mules, and there was a place to sleep.

MC That would be a two day trip?

CB Yes. That was hard going, though. We enjoyed it, though.

MC Well, when you're young, that's an adventure, isn't it?

(Laughter)

MC When you went downtown, would you take what was called the "Dixie Highway"? I guess it is Atlanta Road [now].

CB Atlanta Road, that's all. Wasn't no routes then. You know, they wasn't a whole lot of paving done on roads in "bummer plant" days.

MC How about Delk Road? Wasn't it paved?

CB I don't believe it was. No it wasn't, no.

MC Do you remember when they built the bomber plant?

CB Yes.

MC Didn't that used to be a hilly farm?

CB It did. [It belonged to] the Thomases; Paul Thomas. He was one of the Thomases. And Charlie Thomas was the one that built Kennestone Hospital. Ernest Thomas, he lives at my uncle's place. Will Frey used to be sheriff out there on Roswell Road. They owned all that in there. Paul Thomas, he wound up independent rich and something happened to him. He spent his winters in Florida and got a big

place out there in east Cobb County now.

Was that his land, or his daddy's land?

[It was] his daddy's.

They sold it to the government for the bomber plant?

That's right.

On Dobbins Air Force Base, isn't there still one of the old houses?

Yes.

Whose house was that?

That was my sheriff; Babe Hicks owned it. He died. I've been through five different sheriffs.

Who were they?

Tom Sanders, he was the first one. He held it three terms. Then Ed Legg. And then Harry Scroggins, and Bill Hutson. He's sheriff now.

George McMillan is the one that went on to become a county commissioner?

Yes.

That's a long time to work for the sheriff's office, and watch all those fellows come and go. (Laughter) Did you like it, did you enjoy it?

I enjoyed it. I never did have no trouble.

What kind of things did you have to do? Did you have to serve summons?

Okay, now let me tell you. Lee Strickland was one of my deputies. Back then, white liquor is what we did.

You're talking about moonshine, aren't you?

Yes.

Were there a fair number of moonshine stills in Cobb County?

CB Well, some. But it come out of the mountain country.

MC And you'd try to stop the cars that were transporting it?

CB We did stop them.

MC You didn't try, you did. (Laughter)

CB And red liquor too.

MC Are we talking about during Prohibition, in the '20s?

CB Yes. Then, our pay was on a fee system. I wasn't on a salary; it was a fee system. Catch an automobile, why then, I got a certain percent of it. Then my interest in it would be paid from the clerk's office. The sheriff -- he did have a salary -- but for his deputies, it was more a fee system. So, I remember mighty well the first check that I got for \$500 a month. That was after I came back from the government.

MC So, this was in maybe 1940? You mean, then you were salaried?

CB Yes.

MC What other kinds of things did you have to do? Did you have to deliver summons?

CB Yes, but that wasn't my particular job. I was more likely to try to run down moonshiners.

[Mr. Bullard showing snapshots]

MC That's a big still. (Laughter)

CB Lawd, yes. That was one of my sheriffs right there. That was Horace Burgess. He was deputy sheriff back in them days.

MC Did your boss turn out to be a pretty good county commissioner, do you think?

CB Yes, oh yes.

MC Was he county commissioner before Herbert McCollum? You remember Herbert McCollum?

CB Yes.

MC He did a pretty good job for the county, didn't he?

CB Yes.

MC How did you work with him?

CB Just being good friends. (Laughter) Now, I wasn't on the payroll.

MC You just liked him.

CB Yes, I liked him.

MC You helped him out whenever you could?

CB Yes, he was all right. This was my partner here. [Shows picture]

MC What was his name?

CB Defore. (Laughter) And [this was] my judge.

MC Who is this, Judge who?

CB Judge [Luther] Hames.

MC All those stills that you chopped up and found. Even though a lot of times you didn't catch the people that were running them, I bet you had a pretty good idea of who those people were, didn't you?

CB Let me say this. Some of the older people are still living. I have said to them, since this dope has come in, "A drunk never did bother me." I never did hit one of them. I could sober him up with that hand. Just -- (strikes hands together). But I have told them, I says, if I done what I should have done, them people that is trying to make a living, as well as myself and my partner, that I should have give that back to them and told them, "Go ahead and make a living out of it."

MC Except you were just doing your job, too.

CB Well, that's what I say.

MC If you'd known then what you know now...

CB But that's what I was doing for a living; and that's what they were doing for a living. It was a hard living. That's sad.

MC You have a lot of good memories, don't you? I think you enjoyed your work, for the most part.

CB I did enjoy it. I never did have no trouble.

MC Well, I think that's wonderful. You never had to shoot anybody?

CB No, no, no.

MC You were dealing with local people pretty much, and you knew each other, didn't you?

CB That's right.

MC Mr. Bullard, thank you for talking with me.

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