

ORAL MEMOIRS  
OF  
RONALD McWILLIAMS  
An interview conducted on  
January 22, 2016

Interviewer: Christine Lamberson

Angelo State University  
West Texas Collection

“War Stories: West Texans and the Experience of War, World War I to the Present”

LEGAL STATUS: The oral memoirs of Ronald McWilliams are unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on January 22, 2016.

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The electronic file and complete transcript of this interview were processed in the Department of History at Angelo State University and are available at the Dr. Ralph R. Chase West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas.

[NOTE: The voices of Mickey McWilliams Adams, Mr. McWilliams's daughter, and Bill Adams, his son-in-law, also appear on this recording.]

LAMBERSON: The recorders are usually pretty uh . . . pretty good, but you know, I've got to make sure it's working. Um okay, so, today is January 22nd. I am Christine Lamberson and we're here uh doing a *War Stories* interview. So, could you tell me your name?

McWILLIAMS: My name is Ronald Oliver McWilliams.

LAMBERSON: And could you . . . I'm going to take this right here. [Both laugh] Um can you spell your last name for us?

McWILLIAMS: McWilliams is M-C-capital W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S, McWilliams.

LAMBERSON: Wonderful. So, when and where were you born?

McWILLIAMS: I was born in Ballinger in 1922.

LAMBERSON: And where did you grow up? Did you grow up there as well?

McWILLIAMS: A little bit of there. My dad was a Texas Ranger, so he went around different places. I was in school in Midland, Big Lake, uh . . .

M. ADAMS: Ozona.

McWILLIAMS: Uh where?

M. ADAMS: Ozona.

McWILLIAMS: Ozona, yeah, uh-huh. So, it was several places that way, uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Okay, great. So, as you uh probably know since we talked about it a little bit, this project is about West Texas and West Texans.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: And we're wondering kind of how you define West Texas.

McWILLIAMS: How do I . . . how do I find it?

LAMBERSON: Define it.

McWILLIAMS: Define it? Well, um it's part of the central part of the . . . of the Texas area, you might say. Um and it is uh . . . uh . . . uh both a farming as well as ranching area, and a lot of oil

wells and stuff like that. It's just a great area there that . . . that . . . the Lord has served us with things that uh has made life and . . . and landscapes the way they ought to be.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. And what do you think of as the relationship between West Texas and the military?

McWILLIAMS: Beg pardon?

LAMBERSON: What do you think of as the relationship between West Texas and the military?

McWILLIAMS: Oh, I think it's very closely because they've got such places all over Texas here: San Antonio, and El Paso, and San Angelo—different places—Houston, Dallas. All over. So, it's very, very helpful. And uh we've been . . . had a good uh compartment and friendship with the military. Like San Angelo, right here in San Angelo, with the Navy base up there . . . or Air Force, I mean.

LAMBERSON: Yeah, right. Uh so, when and where did you enter the armed forces?

McWILLIAMS: When? It was 1940. I'd always wanted to be a doctor.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And I . . . and I was in high school here in San Angelo. And when I graduated from that, I went over to the uh LST or the . . . the early uh . . . uh what am I talking about? The . . . the . . . the school that we're in. Now what did uh . . . ?

LAMBERSON: Oh! Oh, right. Yeah, the college.

McWILLIAMS: It was a junior college, yes. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Yeah, it was a . . . yeah, yeah, yeah. Teacher's college or . . .

McWILLIAMS: A junior . . . junior college. I put one year in that and the . . . the war had started. And I'd always wanted to be a doctor, so I thought, "Well, the best thing to do is maybe to get into the service and get into one of the medical corps or something and be able to find out whether I liked that or whether I was good at it, or just whatever it might be." So, I joined the Navy then from there, and went into uh . . . out into California for my first stuff, and then up in this . . . in Detroit with another area until I got my degree in . . . in medicine first. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: And when was that?

McWILLIAMS: Uh, that was in uh . . . uh let me see. Uh I think it was in Maine. I believe it was.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. No, it wasn't. It was in Chicago. Excuse me. Out . . . outside of Chicago. I've forgotten the name of the place. It's an Air Force base out there, and that's where it was. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: So, you were in the Navy, and then when did you switch to being in the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: Well, after I did my six years . . . or eight . . . six years in the service, I went on and finished . . . got my doctor's degree, and then I . . . I had . . . I got married. And so, I thought I could keep my family with me now by joining the . . . the Air Force, you know, and staying here at . . . at home and everything.

LAMBERSON: Gotcha.

McWILLIAMS: Well, just like the government does, they send you as far away as they can. So, they sent me over to England, and I was over there then for quite a while and . . . and uh before I came back to the states.

LAMBERSON: Okay. So, when . . . do you remember what year it was that you joined the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: Joined the Air Force, yes, in 1950, I believe it was, honey. Nineteen-and-fifty.

LAMBERSON: Okay. So, you were in the Navy from 1940 to '46?

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: And then uh joined the Air Force in 1950. And how long were you in the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: Three years in uh active service and then in the remains . . . I mean in the uh . . .

LAMBERSON: Reserves.

McWILLIAMS: Reserves for another eighteen years or something like that.

LAMBERSON: Okay, great. And during your years of service, what uh . . . can you talk a little bit about your um commission, your uh position, and kind of your promotion? You mentioned . . .

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: . . . some . . . some change in ranks.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. Well, as I . . . I was a pharmacist mate in San Angelo . . . I mean in the Navy. Uh and I worked up from the first . . . I mean the third-class pharmacist to the first, and that was as high as you could go without being an officer. Um but then, when I was in the Air Force then, I was already an officer then, and yet I was a . . . a . . . an early . . . I even forgot what it . . . now, uh what the . . . what the terminology was. But anyway, I climbed up and I was a . . . a . . . a colonel before I got out of the Air Force. And uh so, that was the routes that . . . the ones that I did as far as commissions is concerned.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: So, in 1940, you're joining. We're just going into World War II, of course. Uh so, can you talk a little bit about your deployment after you finished training? Where . . . where were you deployed?

McWILLIAMS: Okay, yes. After I got out of dental school in uh 1940, I believe . . . no, it was longer than that. I've forgotten exactly. I don't remember something like that.

LAMBERSON: That's fine. We can look on your list when . . . when it . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: Yeah. When he was on the *Relief*, and then from . . . the *Relief*, the *U.S.S. Relief*, then you . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah, it was uh . . . uh yeah, it was about 1940, somewhere like that. Uh then uh . . . I um . . . that's whenever I went overseas to . . . to Great Britain. And I was over there then for over a year and a half before I came back. And then I had done most of my military services about that time, and then I was in the reserves in the rest of the time.

LAMBERSON: Okay. That was just in the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: Yes ma'am.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

B. ADAMS: That was in the '50s.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

M. ADAMS: It's in the Navy.

LAMBERSON: Okay, great. Okay. So, um should we talk about the Navy a little while first? Or do you want to talk about the Air Force first?

McWILLIAMS: Well, I . . . I liked the Navy.

LAMBERSON: The Navy.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, that was . . .

LAMBERSON: Let's talk about the Navy then. Can you tell us . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, it was more exciting.

LAMBERSON: All right. Perfect. Can you tell us a little bit about your training? What kind of training did you do?

McWILLIAMS: Well, I had real good training because I wanted to be a doctor, and so I studied real hard. They sent me to um . . . up to Great Lakes . . . no. Yeah, Great Lakes, uh-huh.

M. ADAMS: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: Uh and I went through uh corps school up in that area there, and then from there, I was uh . . . uh sent to the *U.S.S Relief*, which was a hospital ship. Uh and I stayed on that, then, until the war started with us. It was already started with over in England, and when it started with us, they sent me to the West Coast. And I was there for about six months, I guess it was, before I went from there to . . . to um . . . the southwestern, you know, uh . . . what's our state?

M. ADAMS: South Pacific?

McWILLIAMS: No, what the . . . what's that state that . . . south of Texas?

B. ADAMS: California?

McWILLIAMS: No, the . . . the Navy. I mean out in the ocean.

M. ADAMS: Oh, Hawaii?

McWILLIAMS: Hawaii! Yeah.

M. ADAMS: Sorry.

McWILLIAMS: I was out in Hawaii for a while, and then from there, we went on out into the further West Texas into all the . . . I mean the west portion of the . . . of the Navy, and was responsible for a whole lot of things. And it's then these things where I went and where I was uh

. . . um all uh . . . uh accompanies with the other military people. I . . . I was on the first ship that . . . that was uh launched . . . uh first LST<sup>1</sup> that was launched on the West Coast.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: And so, we got a little go ahead, you might say, from of the others that way. So, we were pretty well one of the diamond ships, and it was . . . it worked out real well for me, as far as I was concerned. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. And so, then you were out in the Pacific—

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: —as uh we got involved in the war . . . as the U.S. got involved?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, yes. Was out in the Pacific, and then we got right directly down in the middle of the city of the whole . . . I mean, of the whole war up there. About uh . . . I wish I had . . . let me see.

M. ADAMS: You want to see your book? Like where you were in Guadalcanal?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, and that's some of the things.

M. ADAMS: It may be the next page, even, daddy.

McWILLIAMS: Well, the . . . anyway . . .

M. ADAMS: Let me turn the page.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah . . . yeah.

M. ADAMS: I can't get . . .

LAMBERSON: There.

M. ADAMS: There we go.

LAMBERSON: Yep.

B. ADAMS: Well, it was the LST that you . . .

McWILLIAMS: It was a 446.

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<sup>1</sup> Landing Ship, Tank

B. ADAMS: Yeah, number 446, the first one that . . .

McWILLIAMS: There were three completed at the time. Uh LST was the first one. And though . . . we were uh shipped out from uh Seattle to San Francisco and then we got out into the . . . into the Pacific. And that was what . . . the ship that I was on all the time, the *LST-446*, and I think it's a picture or something like that in here.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: About that . . . and it has all . . . gosh, we were in the war with everything there. We were very, very fortunate. We saved some people that was on a burning ship that was uh already abandoned by their crew, and that was what I went aboard. I was a . . . I was a pharmacist mate at the time, a "medic," we call them. And so uh as we were . . . I was about the last one off of the ship because it was burning, and it was . . . it could blow up in just any minute. And uh the captain of the ship came and told me, said, "Let's get off the ship." And I . . . we started on there and then I heard some noise downstairs, out on the deck below. And I told him, I said, "We have some . . . something down there. let me go back and get it." And he said, "Okay, hurry up." So, I went back down there and went into a room, and there were three people in there. One of them was dead and one of them was just blinded from all the stuff that was there, and the other one wasn't hurt too very bad. So, I got those two people off and then I got the uh tag off of the one that was dead, and we came out and got on the ship. And uh we were about maybe uh . . . oh, maybe a hundred yards from the ship whenever . . . just when it blew up and everything.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: And the water, it almost turned our boat over because we was that close and everything.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

B. ADAMS: That was the *U.S.S. Kanawha*, I think.

LAMBERSON: The one that blew up?

M. ADAMS: Yes.

B. ADAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: And that was in the South Pacific?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

LAMBERSON: And what had happened to them?

McWILLIAMS: Well, I don't know what happened to . . . they're . . . they were probably divorced some of the courses—I mean to other ships—or something like that, those that was on that ships. Our ship, see, it wasn't hurt or anything.

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: None of our persons were . . . personnel was hurt.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: We were very fortunate about that.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: But then . . . oh, we went on down to Tulagi and Guadalcanal and different things like that, and we did all the things that we was supposed to do as a hospital ship, you might say, to help people. Our ship was actually one where they put . . . it was a great, great big area for the base of it. It was just like a big hotel that was . . . all of like two or three floors was uh just empty, and so they put in all kind of ships of uh . . . small ships. They put in uh . . . uh . . . uh . . .

M. ADAMS: Like tanks?

McWILLIAMS: Military stuff. Uh . . .

B. ADAMS: LST was a Landing Ship, Tanks.

McWILLIAMS: Army . . . army.

LAMBERSON: Gotcha.

McWILLIAMS: They put in things in there that was uh . . . uh like carpenters needed and everything to build, and uh it . . . it's built in such a way that the front kind of comes up a little bit like this. And then there's two doors that opens this way, and then there's a one that comes down this way, and then all the things that are in here are able to [unintelligible] up. And this is already up on the base. It's like that far. So, you could load a car from up here, just drive it out into that area. And we had a lot of tanks and different things like that, and different army things that we took to those places, and . . . so, that was part of our . . . our . . . our method, you know, to try to help people out and everything. And we were very blessed that we were able to do that.

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

B. ADAMS: You told me your crew was about 200 guys.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, probably like that, uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: And how long were you in the South Pacific with . . . with that same crew, same ship?

McWILLIAMS: About . . . about three years. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: About three years?

McWILLIAMS: About three years. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Okay. And so, how . . . how far away from combat . . . or, like, how far kind of were you from uh the main fighting?

McWILLIAMS: Well, [clears throat] the . . . at the only . . . probably at one time, we were out in the middle of it or most of it, but after a time we were able . . . then, we were then sent down to Alaska . . . no, not Alaska, but uh . . .

LAMBERSON: Australia?

M. ADAMS: Australia.

McWILLIAMS: Uh, well . . .

M. ADAMS: Australia.

McWILLIAMS: Australia, yeah. And we were there for about, oh, two or three weeks or something, refilling our shores—I mean our cars—and I mean, it . . . all the stuff that we needed on the ship. And we got to get off and . . . and had our uh . . . uh exercises, and dancing, and meeting people and different things like that over there. Because they were very friendly to the . . . to the American uh Navy up through there because at that time, they were getting pretty well beat up by the Japanese and everything.

M. ADAMS: It was also a ship that went up onto the shore, and the thing, you know, the front laid down, so that the tanks and things could get off for all the fighters.

LAMBERSON: Gotcha.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: That's great.

M. ADAMS: For the soldiers and stuff.

LAMBERSON: Right. So you could bring some new supplies and things like that.

McWILLIAMS: Beg pardon?

LAMBERSON: So you could bring new supplies and . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Yes, that's right, and . . . and to bring other supplies to the other people, too. Because we'd load up with some bases at some time and would go to a place and help it uh unloading stuff for another ship or something like that that was there. But, mostly, we did our stuff going up on the beaches. We were uh . . . most of the time, whenever we were involved, we would go up on the beach as far as we could because the front of it was this way and open the doors. And then we brought all the service men off . . . or the . . . or the trucks or the guns or whatever it might be. And my deal then as . . . as we landed now, then I was to go across on the . . . on the ship . . . I mean on the shore, just as close as I could and everything to the water and everything, yet . . . but still on the shore, and do uh . . . and set up a little uh . . . uh . . . uh . . .

B. ADAMS: First aid station.

McWILLIAMS: First aid uh area there. A first aid system there. So . . . so, I was there to help people as they were being brought back to put on our ship, and those that was around in that area and hurt. And I was there then until the sheep . . . the ship started to back off, and then I was able to get back on the ship and be brought back on. So, my duty was that way, and . . . and I was very proud of myself for the fact that I was able to help somebody.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: Because I felt very uh . . . I just wanted to . . . to . . . to be that helpful. I just grew up to be, you know . . . trying to be helpful to people, and that's the best way I could do it, I guess.

M. ADAMS: Daddy, tell them about the time that you and two others were left on . . . on an island to . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Yes, we . . . on this . . . on . . . no, this was on the ship, honey. I think we owned an island, but on the ship. Now, then, if . . . if I hadn't said it, baby . . . but anyway. Uh as we were leaving, there was uh an . . . uh . . . uh the captain was leaving, and I was right behind him when I heard some noise . . . heard some noise downstairs.

M. ADAMS: You had already told that.

McWILLIAMS: Okay.

M. ADAMS: But when you and two others went aboard, I mean had to go, they sent you on island to set up a receiver or something up on . . .

McWILLIAMS: Okay. Yeah. Yep. Okay.

M. ADAMS: . . . a spot.

McWILLIAMS: Now, uh we're . . . well, we're getting away from my whole . . . discussing my whole military.

LAMBERSON: Was that the Air Force or the Navy?

M. ADAMS: No, this was the Navy.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

M. ADAMS: Where you had to stay overnight in the ocean?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, yes. Um well, I was a medic and then we had two um . . . one was a uh . . . um . . . um had a . . . a gun.

LAMBERSON: Sure. Infantryman or something like that?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And then I was the medic that was to take care . . . and the other of them was a . . . was a . . . was a computer that would get information. Because we were up on this island and our ships was on the other side, and we were wanting them to try to get some information to them and from them and everything. So, we made it up through . . . through the Japanese places that way where we could keep out of our sight of them until we got to the top. So, whenever we got back down, uh it was time . . . they were going to pick us up. Our ship was out, just about maybe like 200 yards or so, and we were able to swim that without any problem in those days because we were, you know, trusted all the time and everything. But it was out in the . . . in the area, so . . . and I . . . and their little truck that they were supposed to send up, I mean a bus to come and send us up, was not there. So, uh the guy that was in charge of it now, then he said, "Guys, we got to have . . . we'll just swim out to that . . . we can all make it out to that ship and everything." So, I said, "Yeah, we can all go."

So, the three of us already started out swimming, and we swam a . . . a little bit. And the other two was getting a little bit ahead of me and everything, and a little bit later, I got some cramps up my legs. And I just, you know, tried to stretch it out and finally, . . . and I realized I couldn't swim any more. That was as far as I could go. So, I told the other ones, I said, "Now, look, I can't swim anymore," Said, "Now what can I do?" And they said, "Well, you go back and get on that . . . on this . . . on the . . . the . . . the uh island there, and we'll pick you up then the next day." So, then . . . the next day then um . . . let me see. I started back, yeah. As I . . . I . . . I was already tired now then, and I started back, and I realized I hadn't got to the ship yet . . . or the shore. And I realized that I couldn't go any further. I was out of breath and my legs and everything were so tired that I just couldn't go any further. So, I realized that I . . . I was going to drown. So, I said my prayers to mother and dad, and all . . . everybody that I needed to and everything like that, then kind of swam around, you know, just a little ways like this thing. And finally, I . . . I couldn't . . . couldn't give it any more. So, I just, you know, took a big breath

and everything, sent my love to my family and mother and all that sort of stuff, and just went under. And then when I went under, I realized that my head only went that far. And so, I . . . I was on the shore then and everything. So, I . . . I sat there until I got tired, then I decided . . . well, by that time, it was getting dark now then and I could walk then the rest of the way. So, I started walking, and I took about two steps and I went off on the other side.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: And it was just real deep on the other side. So, I got myself back on. And I realized then that I was on a little island that wasn't much bigger than this table right here . . . right here. And so, I stayed there then until the next morning whenever they came back to pick me up.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: But during the night, oh, I saw uh all kinds of uh fish going under and then they create a uh . . . focus uh, you know, that you can see them a little bit. You know, that . . . but uh so, I . . . I . . . I came back, and then get a little bit of Christian stuff in this and everything. Um I was reading a . . . uh let me get the . . . the beginning of it now then. Uh when I came back on that ship, I realized that the . . . that the . . . that uh I was saved, you know. That the . . . the Lord had saved me.

M. ADAMS: You want to read that one right there?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Oh, yeah. "I waited plaintative for the Lord to turn me and uh hear my cry. He lifted me out of the slime pit and out of the mud and mire. He saved my feet . . . he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand." And that is from the Psalms 40:1-22.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And uh . . .

M. ADAMS: And that's exactly what happened.

McWILLIAMS: And that's exactly what happened to me. I mean, I was on that place until all the next day. And I . . . I couldn't've got off because I would've drowned any other way, and it was . . . by that time, it was dark. I couldn't even see where I was going.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: But anyway, the Lord was right with me, and I appreciate that very much because I think he's been with me pretty well all the time.

LAMBERSON: Yeah, I can imagine.

M. ADAMS: Another interesting story was when you were in Boston or wherever . . .

McWILLIAMS: Oh.

M. ADAMS: . . . and you saw Elwood before you left—his brother—and it was . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Yes, yeah. I was in the . . .

M. ADAMS: There was five of his family in the service all at the same time during the war. Five of his siblings.

McWILLIAMS: I was in Boston and we came in to uh . . . somewhere. I don't remember where it was now. Um and I was walking along with a . . . another Navy—on the ship—another Navy sailor that was on it. And there was two guys walking ahead of us a little bit, and I told him, I said, “Now, you see that guy in the middle up there? He walks just like my brother. He looks like . . . that's the way my brother used to walk.” Well, the light stopped and those two stopped, and we came up then close enough then whenever I looked around, it was my brother. And here I was in the Navy and he was in the Air Force . . . I mean the Army. And so, then we left the others, and the two of us then went on to spend the rest of the day . . . until that night whenever I had to go back to my ship and he had to go back to his base. And that's the last time that I saw him.

LAMBERSON: Oh.

McWILLIAMS: Uh . . . uh he just . . . he told me, said, “Ronald, I hope everything goes good with you and everything, you know, and you'll be taken care of and everything.” And I said, “Well, I hope you will, too.” And he didn't say anything at all.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: And uh . . . and I guess . . .

M. ADAMS: And he was killed during the war.

McWILLIAMS: And he was . . . he was killed, and . . . yeah.

M. ADAMS: But he also . . .

B. ADAMS: In Italy.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

M. ADAMS: He also won the Silver Star.

LAMBERSON: Oh, wow.

M. ADAMS: So, two of them in the same family.

LAMBERSON: Oh, and so you and your brother both served. And what about your other siblings?

McWILLIAMS: Uh no, I was in the Navy and he was in the Army at that point.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And so, I . . . I went back to my ship and then he went on over to his Army deal. And they went over . . . he went over to Alaska, I think.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

M. ADAMS: But these were all the five.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. And so they were all in the military?

M. ADAMS: Yes, all in the military.

LAMBERSON: Oh, wow.

M. ADAMS: Including one sister.

LAMBERSON: Oh, wow.

M. ADAMS: Who was a WAC<sup>2</sup>.

McWILLIAMS: A wicky-wacs.

M. ADAMS: A wicky-wacs.

LAMBERSON: [Laughs] And did you have very much uh . . . did you uh have very much contact with your siblings while they were . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: No, not very much. I came home, I think, one time, and [laughs] . . . that's just a funny thing. We were living in Oklahoma . . . I mean in uh Odessa at that time. And uh . . . no, it wasn't . . .

M. ADAMS: Ozona.

McWILLIAMS: Ozona. Ozona at that time, and my dad was a . . . a Texas Ranger. And he had gotten a horse somewhere and we brought him back down there, and that's while I was home.

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<sup>2</sup> Women's Army Corps

So, I thought I'd ride that horse. It'd been a long time since I had. And I got . . . got up, and it threw me off. And . . . but then, I finally got back on it. But uh I had taken some picture of it, and uh . . . uh I was up on . . . I got a barrel because . . . and then I was just doing like this, and I told my . . . my brother, I said, "Now, take a picture of me. But just, you know, don't get the barrel or anything like that." So, he did, and it looked like I was on a real horse and everything like that. So, I got back, they sent me the pictures, and I couldn't wait to show them to my friends [laughing] up there at the time. And here I was, this big cowboy, you know, riding and everything, and it showed me up on a barrel, you know. [Laughs] And they said, "Yeah, boy you're a big rock star right there." [All laugh]

LAMBERSON: That's great. When was that? Was that during your time in the Navy?

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. Still in the Navy at that time.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh. That's great.

M. ADAMS: Technically on leave.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: And how . . . what kind of impact did your um military service have on your family? Or . . . especially your parents, who had all five children . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Well, of course I know that they were . . . well, I did all I have at . . . at that time. But all my brothers and sisters . . . of course, my mother and dad were worried about us all the time. And we were very fortunate that only one of them, during the time that they were still alive, that any of us was killed. And uh so . . . but they uh . . . they were just perfect parents. Absolutely the greatest. I uh . . . there's no way that I could compliment them enough to say that, you know, this was my mother, and this was my dad, because they were the best.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. Did you write to them a lot while you were . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, as much as I could. And that was another thing, too. Whenever we were out overseas, we had to write a letter. And then they read it, and if there was anything in it that there wasn't supposed to, they would mark it out and then send it on to where it would go. Because sometimes they'd get a letter that had a lot of stuff marked off of it, and I did that purposely sometimes just to . . .

LAMBERSON: Well, censor . . .

McWILLIAMS: . . . just to . . . just to show them when I get back home, they would say, "Oh, he . . . he's out in the Pacific now."

LAMBERSON: That's great. And did they write to you?

McWILLIAMS: Beg pardon?

LAMBERSON: Did they write to you?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, they did. Uh-huh. And you'd get it . . . sometimes it'd be two months later, you know, after it was written. Because it would go to a certain area and if the ships were still in that area, well then, they would deliver it. If it . . . they'd gone to another area, they'd have to send it somewhere else. So, sometimes it was maybe three months before you got your mail. And boy, that was the greatest thing aboard ship, whenever they brought your mail. Well, you had to be out there after that because that was it.

LAMBERSON: Mm. And did you keep in touch with your siblings?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, I did. Sure did. I didn't have very many . . . oh, I didn't have any when they . . .

M. ADAMS: No, she's talking about your brothers and sisters.

McWILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

M. ADAMS: Not your children because it was before them.

LAMBERSON: Oh, sorry. Sorry, yes, your brothers and sisters.

McWILLIAMS: Yes. We kept . . .

LAMBERSON: Did you write to them and . . . and stuff when they were . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. Yes, but not very . . . now, one brother, I did. But the one that went overseas, um he was killed pretty quickly.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And the other then was in uh . . . uh in other places after even the war was over, so . . . some of them wasn't in there doing the war, but it was right after and everything.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. Were they older or younger than you?

McWILLIAMS: No, they were younger.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Uh I was uh . . .

LAMBERSON: You were the oldest?

McWILLIAMS: There were two younger than I and then two younger than I.

M. ADAMS: Two older and two younger.

LAMBERSON: Oh, so you were in the middle?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Gotcha.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: And how did uh . . . how did it affect you, the . . . your brother who was killed? Did you hear . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Oh, yes.

LAMBERSON: Did you hear about him while you were still deployed?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, I did. Uh my mother . . . I was home on a . . . on a leave when mother, one time, woke up and she said that she just felt like that Elwood had been killed. Well, we hadn't heard anything from anything, and so I went on back to my . . . in the Navy and stuff and everything. And it wasn't more than probably two weeks or so until they came out and gave mother a little card and everything and like that and said that Elwood had been . . . been killed. He was in uh . . .

M. ADAMS: Italy somewhere.

McWILLIAMS: Italy, yeah. Uh-huh. In that area there. He'd gone from there to . . . to uh Africa and then across that into . . . it'd be up in that area.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: So, we had a whole bunch of people in the Navy.

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: I mean in the Air Force . . . in the military. Try to put that . . . yeah.

LAMBERSON: Yeah, in the military, um-hum, in general. And so, um I want to hear a little bit more about your uh . . . your visits to the island, your service with the island. How often did you . . . did your ship stop at an island and set up a first aid station and things like that?

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. Well, we didn't do much of that unless it was . . . we were . . . we were right in the middle of the war. And so, it happened probably, oh, maybe uh every two weeks or something like that. We'd . . . we'd come to a place and we'd take things off of our ship and give it someone else.

B. ADAMS: [Unintelligible] the ship he was on.

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay. Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: And uh . . . forgot what I was asked.

LAMBERSON: Uh you were saying that during the middle of the war it was more frequent.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, uh-huh. So, anyway, uh . . . I missed my family, of course.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: But I wasn't married and so that didn't . . . you didn't take into that or anything. But uh . . . anyway, I was just very fortunate, honey, to get through with the things I did and . . .

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Can you tell me a little bit about what you felt like was the biggest challenge while you were serving in the military? Or . . . sorry, not . . . in the Navy, specifically?

McWILLIAMS: The biggest challenge?

LAMBERSON: Yeah. What was the hardest part about it for you?

McWILLIAMS: Uh going to shore. Whenever we were going on with our uh tank . . . I mean our uh . . . forgot what the hell it was now. I don't mean to cuss. I mean . . . [Both laugh]

LAMBERSON: That . . . it's okay. It's okay. We obviously . . . it comes up a lot. Um and could you tell me a little bit about the Silver Star, about that experience?

McWILLIAMS: Yes.

LAMBERSON: Or maybe that's not . . .

M. ADAMS: No.

LAMBERSON: . . . the right thing to point to while I ask that question. There you go. About your Silver Star experience.

McWILLIAMS: Well, this is when it was presented to me.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: This is at SMU. I was in SMU at the time. Uh . . .

B. ADAMS: In a Navy program for dental education, was it? Already?

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: So, anyway, uh they—this is my mother sitting back over there—and they had had this up here for me then, and they . . . they called me up to give me my Silver Star, but they didn't give me the star at that time. They just gave me the . . . the . . . the information on it. It was about six months later before I got the Silver Star.

B. ADAMS: This is the citation.

[Shuffling and fidgeting with photographs.]

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay.

LAMBERSON: There we go.

M. ADAMS: This stays here.

LAMBERSON: There you . . . excellent.

M. ADAMS: I can't get it over this . . .

LAMBERSON: Okay, and so, could you tell me a little bit about uh, you know, how . . . how you thought of your mission, why you were there, what uh . . . what you kind of thought of the U.S. role in World War II while you were serving?

McWILLIAMS: Well, yes. Right at first, now then when I wanted to be a pharmacist mate or a doctor, I thought at that time . . . that was the biggest thrill that I had because I felt like, "Well, now I'm getting to where I want to get," and everything like that. But then, I didn't make it. Uh but I . . . uh I was in the medical corps, which was as close to it as I could get without being a, you know, a doctor or something. So, I was very fortunate and very pleased with the fact that I was able then to get into the Air course . . . I mean into the military course, and to help us out as far as uh . . . uh sick people and injured people and this sort of thing was . . . so, it was a . . . I . . . I felt that I was very lucky to get the training that I had because it helped me through my whole life. And I got out of the service and everything like that, I became a dentist and served a dentist here in San Angelo and . . . for twenty-five years or so. And uh so, it . . . it really . . . it . . . it . . . it finally gave me what I wanted. I wanted to be an M.D. but I did something—I'm not going to say what it was—that I should not have done, and my punishment then was to go to dental school rather than medical school. And that's something that I have regretted for a long period of time and it was foolish of me to do what I did.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. From the Navy.

McWILLIAMS: I was in the Navy at that time.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. So, you went to dental school instead of med school um while you were still serving in the Navy, and then you uh had your kind of in between time and then went back to the Air Force after that?

McWILLIAMS: That's correct. Yes, ma'am.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Um and did you have a um . . . in, like . . . how much news and . . . and of the actual goings on of the war, of the progress of the war kind of . . . could you talk a little bit about sort of your thinking about uh, you know, if we're going to win the war or not win the war and how the war's going, you know, that kind of stuff while you were there?

McWILLIAMS: Well, we were lucky. Aboard the ships, they . . . they printed a daily mail of . . . and it was mostly what's going on in the war, unless it was the big things that happened back in the United States, like if the president died. It would be something like that, but uh . . .

LAMBERSON: Sure.

McWILLIAMS: Anyway, they informed us a great deal of what was going on. And that helped us a great deal because we felt like, "Well, we're still quite a way from Guadalcanal" or something like that, "and they're not going to attack us from here" or something. So, it was helpful in a way to know where we were. And they did their best to . . . to let us know where we were there. The only thing that was uh . . . that we didn't get like we should do uh is . . . was our mail. It was a thing that . . . that was least important to them, you know.

LAMBERSON: Sure.

McWILLIAMS: So . . . but anyway. Uh . . .

LAMBERSON: So, you got some news, at least.

McWILLIAMS: Oh, yeah.

LAMBERSON: And did you have any contact then with the uh . . . with the Japanese or with the enemy? Did you have any run-ins with them, so to speak?

McWILLIAMS: Whenever I did, the . . . the Germans.

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Whenever I was in the Atlantic and I was on the hospital ship over there, we picked up uh English people as well as German people.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And so, we were there. Uh I had to give one of them a . . . a shot one time. And uh just as I was giving it to him, I thought, “You know, this SOB, I ought to just whip him” [laughs].

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: But I . . .

B. ADAMS: He would’ve been a U-Boat sailor.

McWILLIAMS: . . . but I couldn’t do it.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: And I put it in his arm the way I was supposed to do. But uh that was the time I . . . I really thought, “Well, I’ll get even with guy . . . this guy.”

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: But I didn’t have the guts to do it.

LAMBERSON: When were you in the Atlantic?

McWILLIAMS: Beg pardon?

LAMBERSON: When were you in the Atlantic? Was that after the Pacific?

McWILLIAMS: No, it was before.

LAMBERSON: Before. At the beginning. Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yes, yes. Yeah.

M. ADAMS: Before the war had reached America.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Okay. Oh, I see.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: And they were picking up . . .

LAMBERSON: I see. I see.

M. ADAMS: . . . bodies that were floating around in the . . .

McWILLIAMS: In the Atlantic and everything. Both German as well as . . . as English.

LAMBERSON: As . . . right. Before we were actual combatants.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah.

LAMBERSON: Right. Oh, I see.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Uh okay. And did you receive training about what to do when you . . . I guess at that point, both the English and the German were . . . Germans were officially the . . . the same for us. But did you receive training about the enemy and what to do if you came into contact? What was that like?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, very much. Absolutely. Well, they taught as much of medicine as they possibly could. And that's what we did then to try to help them. We uh, as I said, didn't try to take advantage of them and not help them and everything like that. We were Christian enough, you might say, to help them, both whenever they were sick or when they were hurt or whenever they were injured in . . . in some way like that. So, we tried to do as much as that way. And that helped us out then, not only to learn our future information and everything, but helping the ones that we were able to help.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. Uh okay. And is there anything else that I maybe have missed uh about your time in the South Pacific or in the Navy? Any other major things that I didn't ask about that I should've?

McWILLIAMS: I could tell you something funny.

LAMBERSON: That'd be great.

McWILLIAMS: This was on the ship uh in the Navy, and uh we were way out in the sea there, out in the . . . in the Pacific . . . I mean . . . yeah, the Pacific Ocean. And uh . . . uh land was 200 yards . . . I mean 200 miles from any way . . . from any way. And a new corpsman that just was up on the beach that way, he went up there and he was a lookout man. That's just looking for things like that. And he saw some stuff over there and he hollered down and he said, "Smoke on the horizon!" And he saw . . . the medic . . . I mean the officer downstairs said, "Repeat it!" And he said, "Smoke on the horizon!" And he said, "Well, what's it look like?" And he said, "Well . . . it looks like a cigar, but I don't believe it is." We all got a kick out of that and everything. But, we laughed. I mean, we tried to . . . everybody, you know . . . well, there was a

whole lot of pressure on us all the time. When we were out to sea, we didn't know whenever we were going to get hit by uh submarines or just whatever it was like that. And you just had to keep a . . . a good . . . say, you know . . . said your prayers and did the things that you're supposed to do. And . . . and then that was it. And if the Lord was going to take you, he was going to take you. And that was, you know . . . that was it. And so, you got to where you . . . you really realized that. And so, when somebody was killed, you felt sorry for them, but that was . . . that was part of the thing. And uh what's sad for them is well, their family. Something like that. But uh I enjoyed my service, both in the Air Force as well as the . . . the Navy.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. And were you ever injured?

McWILLIAMS: Uh . . . no.

B. ADAMS: How about the explosion?

M. ADAMS: Well, when he went . . . when the explosion . . .

LAMBERSON: Sure.

M. ADAMS: The ship . . .

LAMBERSON: Right. The other one.

M. ADAMS: . . . did a little bit of damage.

LAMBERSON: Right.

M. ADAMS: But nothing that he got a Purple Heart for or anything.

LAMBERSON: Sure. And did you have any contact with um local inhabitants on the island?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, I did.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, when we were in uh . . . uh . . . uh . . . oh, what's . . . ?

M. ADAMS: Well, it says you were right around the south . . . I mean new . . . New Georgia.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, the . . . the island down there that's part of the English island.

M. ADAMS: Well . . .

McWILLIAMS: What is it? Uh . . .

LAMBERSON: Indonesia?

McWILLIAMS: Huh?

LAMBERSON: Indonesia, maybe. Oh. Oh, you mean in the Atlantic!

McWILLIAMS: In the Atlantic.

M. ADAMS: Australia?

LAMBERSON: In the Atlantic. Uh Ireland . . . uh Iceland. I don't know.

M. ADAMS: I don't know.

LAMBERSON: England . . . Scotland . . .

McWILLIAMS: No, but it's . . . it's a Scottish . . .

LAMBERSON: Oh, Scottish island?

McWILLIAMS: Island, yeah.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Sure, uh-huh.

B. ADAMS: Hebrides, [unintelligible].

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, I've forgotten now, but I forgot the question now. [Laughs]

LAMBERSON: Oh, I . . . I asked if you had any um . . . uh contact with the local inhabitants?

McWILLIAMS: Contact with the locals, yes.

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: Yes, I did. Uh-huh. There were some people there that uh . . . that uh- . . .when we'd go ashore, uh what few times we did, we met people, uh girls, and they'd invite us to a date . . . I mean to dances or something like that the next day. So, that helped us to kind of regenerate ourselves a little bit or something like that. And that was . . . that was very nice.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. And that was in the Atlantic?

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Yes, uh-huh. And they were . . . I've forgotten what they were called. Kind of like the . . . the American people that's in the service . . . women.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: But uh they had their little uh service tags and stuff like that on too, so we knew that they were uh in the service. And so, we'd go to a dance or something because we'd be on the ship . . . I mean on the land for maybe two days or three days. And during that time, if there was a dance anywhere, well, we wanted to get to it as much as we could. And we went with those people and it was very nice. Sometimes uh you'd even get a letter from them. In fact, I know that for two times after I got out of the service, I got a letter from a woman that was in uh . . . uh in the Pacific, out in that area. And uh . . . but I was already married at that time, and so . . .

LAMBERSON: Too late.

McWILLIAMS: I just read it and threw it away.

LAMBERSON: Gotcha. So, your contract or the . . . the places that you went to shore for extended periods of time were in Scotland and then Australia?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, yes. Surely was. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Um okay. So, could you talk a little bit then about uh . . . so you came back, you went to dental school. Where'd you go to dental school?

McWILLIAMS: Dental corps?

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: No, school.

McWILLIAMS: Dental school. Yeah, I went to dental school down in Houston.

LAMBERSON: Okay, and that was uh the . . . the Navy funded you to go to school? Or does that . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: No, they paid me for . . . no, I was out of the Navy when I was there.

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: I think I was.

M. ADAMS: He was in SMU while he was in the Navy.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

M. ADAMS: And then you went . . .

B. ADAMS: What did you study at SMU?

McWILLIAMS: Uh all the medical I could. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: At SMU, you did . . . you did kind of the pre-dental classes?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Uh, yeah, I finished my medical stuff and everything that was necessary that way.

B. ADAMS: And played football.

LAMBERSON: And played football.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, I was a first-string center.

LAMBERSON: Wonderful.

McWILLIAMS: Got boosted a couple of times.

LAMBERSON: All right, sounds good.

McWILLIAMS: By my own players. I was leaning over that ball.

LAMBERSON: Sounds good. Uh so, then you went to dental school, and then . . .

McWILLIAMS: It was down in Houston.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Went to dental school, yes.

LAMBERSON: And then you joined the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: That's correct. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: And so, why did you decide to join the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: Well, in that time, I was married and I thought I could keep my family. And lo and behold, they sent me to England [chuckles] first thing.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

M. ADAMS: Helped pay for his school.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Gotcha.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: So, you decided um . . . but you wanted to uh join up . . . back up to pay for your school or why did you decide to join the Air Force instead of just go and start practicing?

McWILLIAMS: To get . . . get some more training.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, in the Navy . . . I mean in the Air Force. And I was a medic . . . or, a dentist in the Navy. So, I got a lot of my training that way, so . . . and of course, money helped out and all and so that's why I went into the service then, to try to get that. So . . . it . . . the Navy, I mean the service has been very good to me.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: I've been very fortunate to get the things from them without a big added, you know, uh . . . difference in . . . in opinions or something like that.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: So . . .

M. ADAMS: There's a picture, daddy, of you in nineteen . . . what's it say? Nineteen forty-five . . . '46 in the University of Detroit dental school.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah.

M. ADAMS: So, you were there and then finished in Houston.

McWILLIAMS: That's correct.

LAMBERSON: So, is that after SMU?

McWILLIAMS: No, that was before.

LAMBERSON: Before SMU.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: So, you did . . .

McWILLIAMS: I was still in the service at that time.

M. ADAMS: No, but you were in . . . this was when you were in the Air Force, right?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: Okay, so that was after SMU. You were in the Navy when you were at SMU . . .

McWILLIAMS: No.

M. ADAMS: . . . and then in Detroit when you were—because Jimmy was born there—when you were in the Air Force.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah, well I still was in . . . I was still in the Navy.

M. ADAMS: Oh, you were in the Navy?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Uh-huh.

M. ADAMS: Okay. I thought you were in the . . .

LAMBERSON: So, you got some dental training at uh . . . towards . . . at the end of the war while you were still in the Navy?

McWILLIAMS: Yes.

M. ADAMS: Oh, okay.

LAMBERSON: I see.

McWILLIAMS: No, I . . . I was out of the Navy. This is just help me to help . . . I was a . . . I needed . . . they needed corpsmen.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh.

McWILLIAMS: Like I said a while ago, I was helpful in different ships down in there. And that was what I was.

M. ADAMS: He was just . . . she was just wanting to know where all you went to dental school.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah.

M. ADAMS: And that says Detroit . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

M. ADAMS: . . . where Jimmy was born. And then I was born in Houston when you were in Houston.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I had a . . . I probably . . . one uh semester or something like that. Because the war was taking place in that time, and so they sent me on . . . over there to fight, and it was over almost. But they sent me back overseas then to do something.

M. ADAMS: Yeah, and that's got to be the Navy.

McWILLIAMS: See, it's all . . . this stuff is all confused and everything.

LAMBERSON: Not at all, not at all.

McWILLIAMS: No way in the world anybody can put all this together.

LAMBERSON: Nope. Totally fine. Um well, and . . . and we're . . . a lot of what we're interested in is sort of your experiences, and . . . and how . . . what stood out to you, so to speak, more than even the precise movements. Um so, you went to England. What were you doing in England as part of the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: I was an . . . a doctor . . . a dentist there. Also, I was a football coach.

LAMBERSON: That's great.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. So . . .

LAMBERSON: Who were you coaching?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, the military there.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh.

McWILLIAMS: I was on the base there and so, we had a football team and I happened to be given the permission to be the . . . or they made me . . . or uh kept . . . commission me to be the football coach. So, I enjoyed that very much.

LAMBERSON: And who did your football team play?

McWILLIAMS: Well, we played all across all the places in England, and even one in . . . in uh different countries. Uh around uh all in that area there. Germany, I think, because the war was over at that time. And so, anyway, it was . . . it was good training. Um I . . . I had a brother that was a . . . a football player in Midland, and he was really a wonderful player. So, I wrote him when I knew I was going to be the coach. I wrote him and asked him to send me some . . . some information about the . . . about the . . . the coaching and everything. So, he sent me a book, but it wasn't worth a damn. And so, anyway, the first . . . and I . . . and this is before we got the book. It was our first game. We won. We won the game. And later on, I got that book and I started reading the stuff and out of the . . . we never won another game.

LAMBERSON: It wasn't helpful, huh?

McWILLIAMS: And I wrote him back and told him, "I hope I get out of the Navy and I'll get a job for you as a boy . . . dental boy . . . some . . . even water boy, something like that." We laughed about it. We were good friends, of course. Everything . . .

LAMBERSON: That's great.

McWILLIAMS: But uh . . .

LAMBERSON: So, were the other teams they were playing, were they other American . . . uh teams from other American military bases?

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Well, no, they were all in England.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah. Like uh . . . uh like British stuff or something like [unintelligible]. And uh . . . uh the . . . Spain had some, and anywhere where the . . . the . . . the American had different uh . . . uh sources of people being there, you know. Uh-huh, yeah. Military police.

LAMBERSON: And how long were you there, in England? You . . . for three years, you said?

McWILLIAMS: No, uh I was only there for about two years.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: I was in that . . . in there . . .

LAMBERSON: Oh, the . . . in the Air Force.

McWILLIAMS: I was in the . . . in the Air Force for three years and came back and then my little one was born. This one right here.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, and I'm going to tell him a story.

M. ADAMS: You can. I was in England, too, though. I was born before you went over there.

McWILLIAMS: Oh, that's right. I was in . . .

M. ADAMS: And Curry was born . . . or . . .

McWILLIAMS: Afterwards.

M. ADAMS: My brother was born in England.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay. And so, was your family in England the whole time, or were they here for part of it?

McWILLIAMS: No, none of them . . . well, yeah.

M. ADAMS: Yeah, we were . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: We went over on the *Queen Mary* and came back on the *U.S.S. Alexander Patch*, which was a Navy ship. U.S. . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: U.S. Navy ship.

McWILLIAMS: Good.

M. ADAMS: And we all came back on the *U.S.S. Alexander Patch*.

McWILLIAMS: See, I've forgotten all of that stuff, honey.

M. ADAMS: Well, that's why I brought this book because it has all that stuff listed in here.

LAMBERSON: Great. Perfect.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, I put it in there when I still had some sense.

LAMBERSON: No. Uh you're doing very well. Don't worry . . . um . . .

M. ADAMS: When he was in the Pacific, though, he wrote this.

LAMBERSON: Oh, the poems from the Pacific. Okay.

M. ADAMS: And it's one poem, but it's . . . it's very good.

LAMBERSON: That's wonderful. We will definitely make a copy of this . . .

M. ADAMS: Okay.

LAMBERSON: . . . to go with it. Um so, what was it like having your family there? What was it like for your wife?

McWILLIAMS: Oh in . . . over in England?

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: Oh, it was really great.

LAMBERSON: Yeah.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. In fact, there was a uh . . . the little one, who was it? Uh . . .

M. ADAMS: Curry was born over there.

McWILLIAMS: Curry! Was he? Curry was in . . . he was the little one then. Uh and we had a . . . a woman that . . . that brought our milk to us, and she just fell in love with our family. And so, whenever the school started, and uh he had to go to school . . .

M. ADAMS: Oh, that was Jimmy, yeah.

McWILLIAMS: Jimmy. And she was in school, too. Boy, she kept . . . and the little other British kids started picking on him. Well, she just let those kids [unintelligible]. "You better leave that kid alone because I'll get on your hind end." And so, sure enough, she was the one that we loved so much, and whenever we came . . . started back to England . . . to America, I said, "Well, uh . . . uh honey, why don't you come . . . go to . . . back to uh America with us." And so, uh she didn't say anything and everything, but I didn't notice that she'd left. And it wasn't very long until her mother came down there and wanted to know if we really meant what we were saying. So, we told her, I said, "Well, we love her just like she's one of ours, and we'd love to have her and everything like that, but it's just too late right now to get her on the boat or anything like that." So, anyway, she said, "Well, if you will take her and train her and teach her like one of your own children, I will let her go." And so, we came back to the states then and did all we could to get all the information, and the . . . the uh . . . whatever's necessary and everything to

get her back. And she was part of our family then and still is part of our family, all this . . . all this time and everything.

M. ADAMS: So, did you, like, adopt her?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, no. We didn't. Uh we loved her like she was one of our own, but we never did go through to . . . to adopt her.

M. ADAMS: Because she still visited her family, too.

LAMBERSON: Right.

M. ADAMS: She still would visit . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah. It's . . . it's . . .

LAMBERSON: Right. Gotcha. But she lived with you.

McWILLIAMS: Yes.

M. ADAMS: Yes.

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh and her family would come over and visit with us and her, too, at the same time. So, we were very close and everything, and she is still very, very, very close. One of the best there is.

LAMBERSON: Yeah, that's great. How did your uh wife and kids like being in England?

McWILLIAMS: Uh I think they liked it. Uh my wife, um . . . uh she got a real acquainted with some . . . some uh people that had uh racehorses. And she went with one of the guys over there with the big uh racehorse deal that was uh up in England a whole lot further, and everything like that. She was up there for a couple of days with her . . . with him, rather, and then came back. And uh they uh . . . uh and like . . . like I said, the kids, they just really loved uh Shirley, and she's been part of our family ever since that way. Just really great. And the family, they . . . everything went great.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: One . . . I will tell you one little thing. The youngest one now then, we had a three-story area . . . uh building. It was beautiful. Called a malt house. And . . .

M. ADAMS: Used to be a beer brewery.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: At one time. And so, anyway, there was a room up there that I . . . while my wife and baby was being born, I set up for them, so that it would be there for them whenever they came. And so, we came. And so, whenever we put the baby in the bed and everything like that, in a little while, it started crying. And it just would cry and cry and cry. And so, finally, you know, I'd go in there and pick him up, take her outside, and walk . . . and go walk him out in the hall and everything, and he'd quit crying. [unintelligible], come back, put him in there, and he'd start crying again. So, we thought, "Gee, whiz. Something is . . . is wrong with this." So, we didn't put him in that room anymore. We moved him to another room then. So, that . . . and he never did ever cry in that area.

LAMBERSON: Hm.

McWILLIAMS: So, we didn't know, but the people across the street . . . I've forgotten what their names were now. Do you remember?

M. ADAMS: Mrs. Green.

McWILLIAMS: What?

M. ADAMS: The Greens.

McWILLIAMS: Green?

M. ADAMS: Um-hum. Mrs. Green.

McWILLIAMS: Mr. Green, okay. They could see this house was just across from there, and the windows up there that they're talking about, they could see. And say . . . and they . . . they said this house was vacant for a long time, but they'd see a light up in that area there. Never knew what it was or anything else like that at all. And they would check, and nobody was in it, but there was a big light up in that area. And so, that was the room that Vicky uh . . .

M. ADAMS: Curry.

McWILLIAMS: Curry was in. So, we didn't put him in that anymore because we was afraid that there was really something going on that shouldn't go on. So, we had a real . . . uh enchanting life while we were there. In fact, the whole life, not only while we were in England. Our whole life had been wonderful.

M. ADAMS: The house that we lived in there came with a butler, and he had a dog.

McWILLIAMS: That's right.

M. ADAMS: And the butler's name was Flannigan, and the dog's name was um . . . oh, darn. I thought . . . I didn't think I'd forget it, but . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: It was a big um Manchurian deerhound or something like that.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Oh, wow.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: And who . . . did you guys find the house yourself? It wasn't on a . . . on-base, I assume, right? It was a . . . ?

M. ADAMS: No, it wasn't. It was . . .

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: No, no. Yeah, yeah. We could've got on the base, but we decided to get down there because we were using the off-base doctors and stuff and we'd be much closer to them and all.

LAMBERSON: I see. And so, what were you . . . you . . . by that point, you were serving as a dentist . . . or . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Yeah, yeah. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh. And . . .

M. ADAMS: You were in Brize Norton Air Force Base.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: In Long Compton, England, is where it was.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: And so, who were most of the people that you were . . . who were most of your patients?

McWILLIAMS: Well, uh it's . . . it's still the military.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, I . . . I . . . I . . . I never did do anything uh . . .

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: . . . on the . . . on the . . .

LAMBERSON: Sure.

McWILLIAMS: . . . on that. It was all in the military. I'd have to drive right back to . . . back to where I was, where I was stationed, and . . . and did all that information from there.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. And how many . . . like, how many um . . . how big of a base was this? How many people were stationed there?

McWILLIAMS: Honey, I don't have any idea. It's just a whole lot.

LAMBERSON: Fair enough. A lot of people, though? It was relatively large?

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: So, I have no idea. It was just a big area there that uh . . . England . . . I mean, we had bases all over uh England and everything like that. It was quite amaze . . . amazing, the different bases that we had. Some was a combination of some. Like ours was a . . . was a . . . a Navy as well as an Air Force, too. So . . .

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. I see. Um and so, this was during the Cold War. What was kind of your sense of . . . of why you were in England? Of . . . or the . . . why the U.S. should be stationed in . . . in England for that matter?

McWILLIAMS: Would you say that again?

LAMBERSON: Um so, what kind of was your sense of the U.S. mission in England? Right? So, I mean, this is during the Cold War by this point, right? So . . .

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah, the . . . the war was over at that time and everything. And so, I was sent up there then to . . . to take care of the people that was in the service that was in that area there. And so, that's where they'd send me, to this base over here and I was a dentist in that area taking care of all of them, or they'd send me over here and I'd take care of that all.

LAMBERSON: So, you kind of moved around to different bases.

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Well, no, not necessarily. I was just using that as an examination. So, I was only at one base up there.

LAMBERSON: Travel, yeah. Oh, okay. I see.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, but they had them around different places and everything.

LAMBERSON: I see. Other people as well? Okay. Um and then uh where'd you spend your last year of the Air Force? Back in the States?

McWILLIAMS: Yes. No, no. Did . . . uh let me see, now.

M. ADAMS: Well, he was in the reserves.

McWILLIAMS: The reserves here, yeah. With the . . .

LAMBERSON: Oh, right. Yeah.

M. ADAMS: So, he was in . . .

McWILLIAMS: No, I . . .

M. ADAMS: [unintelligible]

McWILLIAMS: I believe the last was in England.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, we came . . . yeah, it was. Came back from England and then came on home. And uh I hitchhiked . . .

B. ADAMS: To San Angelo.

McWILLIAMS: I hitchhiked, too. I took a . . . I was still in the service, but I put on just regular . . . it wasn't military . . .

LAMBERSON: Civilian clothes.

McWILLIAMS: . . . because I didn't want to embarrass the military being out there. And I . . . I hitchhiked all the way from there to San Angelo.

LAMBERSON: From . . . where were you?

McWILLIAMS: Up in Detroit. I mean in uh . . .

M. ADAMS: New York.

McWILLIAMS: New York, and then . . .

LAMBERSON: Oh, wow.

McWILLIAMS: So, all the way down. One time, on the way down, there's a guy, picked me up. It was probably . . . oh, probably about eight o'clock in the morning. I'd stay in a restaurant at

night . . . I mean in a place, you know, where I could, at night. But it was early in the morning. I was out on the street, and I was . . . hand put out like this, and so they stopped and picked me up. He took me, said, "I'm not going too far, but I'll put you out up in here." And he asked me a bunch of questions while I was there and I told him this and I told him that and all that sort of stuff. And so, finally, he let me out and everything, and so I stood there for a little while and somebody picked me up and I went another hundred miles or something and got off and got back on the thing. And later on that afternoon, a car stopped, and got in it uh . . . in uh . . . I got in the car. Didn't pay much attention to it or anything like that, and I was sitting in there, he said, "You in the Navy?" And I said, "Yeah." Said, "Where have you been?" So, I started telling uh . . . wasn't necessarily maybe the truth or something like that, and lo and behold, [laughs] it was the guy that had picked me up.

LAMBERSON: [Laughs] In the morning?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, earlier. And here I was telling him a whole different story.

LAMBERSON: [Laughs] Getting suspicious?

McWILLIAMS: And he got a big kick out of that. He said, "Man," said, "You're going to get hit by somebody before you get through this and everything." And I realized, I said, "Oh, yeah, you were the man that was out . . . talk to me ago." And he said "Yeah." But I was feeling a whole lot better. I wasn't sad now then because I had gotten it there then. So, I . . . I sure was cheered up and everything. And uh . . . but it was kind of funny because he got a big kick out of it, the fact that I'd said all that and I probably didn't mean half of it.

LAMBERSON: And when was this? Was this after the Navy or after the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: After the Air Force. I came from there right back to San Angelo and then started my dental degree . . . I mean my dental office here in San Angelo.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh. And why did you decide to hitchhike from New York?

M. ADAMS: Because he only had enough money to send mother and us kids.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, I sent the family home, but that . . . I didn't have enough money left to ride myself.

LAMBERSON: I see.

McWILLIAMS: So, I hitchhiked home.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

McWILLIAMS: Took me about three days to do so.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh.

McWILLIAMS: But uh anyway, I was very fortunate.

LAMBERSON: How'd you guys go? By bus or . . . ?

M. ADAMS: We flew.

LAMBERSON: You flew, you flew. Okay. All right. Uh and can you . . . so, between the time that you were in the Navy and the time you were in the Air Force, the military was also desegregated. Did that come in . . . did you get any training about race? Does that come into play at all?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, yes. I was in the uh . . . the uh whatever you called it. Uh . . . that uh . . . like people in school sometimes, you know, they'll be in a . . . in a group of uh whatever it is.

LAMBERSON: Sure, your class or cohort or whatever.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, something like that. And that was whenever I was in uh . . . after I'd already gone to dental school. And I was waiting before I was sent out to . . . to uh . . . uh what's the state, I mean the city out . . . ?

M. ADAMS: Uh Biloxi?

McWILLIAMS: No, no, it was uh . . . uh in the United States.

M. ADAMS: Biloxi is in the United States.

McWILLIAMS: I mean in . . . in Texas.

M. ADAMS: You said after you got through dentist school.

LAMBERSON: Oh, in Texas. Houston?

M. ADAMS: Oh. Well, you were in Houston. You were in Galveston . . .

McWILLIAMS: Houston, of course. Yeah, okay, that's what I was trying to say.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah. So, I've had a lot of experiences.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh.

McWILLIAMS: And a lot of wonderful things happen.

LAMBERSON: Yeah. That . . . you mean uh that when you were being sent out to Houston was when the military was desegregated? Is that what you're saying?

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Yes.

LAMBERSON: Yeah. And so, did that affect what the . . . your time in the . . . was your time in the Air Force different?

M. ADAMS: I don't think he knows what that word means.

McWILLIAMS: Yes, I do.

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay. Were there . . . were there any African Americans in uh your unit with you?

McWILLIAMS: Uh in the Navy, yes, they was.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: Yes. Because I could . . . the reason I remembered was I was a medic at that time, and my job was to go down and check the . . . the food that it was all fresh and everything like that. And they caught . . . they . . . they were two uh . . . uh negroes that were uh cooks on the . . . on the thing, and they caught them doing some things that they . . . with each other that they wasn't supposed to.

LAMBERSON: I see.

McWILLIAMS: And that's why I remembered because it was such a dramatic situation.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: And they sent them back out of . . . out of there in a hurry.

LAMBERSON: Uh-huh. And they were the only . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Only blacks aboard that . . . that ship now. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Oh, okay.

McWILLIAMS: Now, on the . . . on the, on the military . . . out on the big ships, you know, the uh . . . the different ones that were the hospital ships, of course, we did have some. But this was on a smaller ship and everything like that. But we didn't have many. I mean, at that time, they weren't . . . they just weren't treated like they are now.

LAMBERSON: Right.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Right. Uh okay. And so, then you um came back after the Air Force, and then you transitioned into being a civilian dentist and being in the reserves.

McWILLIAMS: Yes.

LAMBERSON: Did you have any challenges making that transition? Right? One of the . . . one of the ideas of this project is to kind of learn a little bit about what past veterans' experiences are, like thinking about, you know, veterans coming back today.

McWILLIAMS: Yes.

LAMBERSON: And so, we, of course, talk a lot today about how hard it is to kind of make that transition. So, we're curious about your experience.

B. ADAMS: [Unintelligible] existing dental practice and all the patients . . .

LAMBERSON: Right, yeah.

B. ADAMS: . . . where you had to build it up from friends and family.

LAMBERSON: Exactly, yeah. So . . . so, did you have a challenge making that transition from military, all full-time military life, to civilian?

McWILLIAMS: No, honey, I don't think I did.

LAMBERSON: Wasn't too bad?

McWILLIAMS: Uh wasn't too bad at all.

LAMBERSON: That's good.

M. ADAMS: Well, you know, uh the . . . the way veterans were treated back then is so much different than the Vietnam era because people didn't think they should have gone to Vietnam and there was just so much hostility there.

LAMBERSON: Right.

M. ADAMS: And the World War II veterans were treated with a lot of respect.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. Absolutely. So, um how do you feel looking back at your military service? How do you feel about your . . . your times . . . ?

McWILLIAMS: Oh, I'm very blessed that I had it. I could have probably not through . . . gotten through the schools that I did without the help from the military. And even when I got back here

as a dentist, uh . . . uh once every summer, I spent a month out at Goodfellow Field in the dental office out there, helping them. Some of them were even my patients in town and everything, but they took advantage of it while they were out there. And . . . which, that was enjoyable too and everything. So, it was very helpful to me. It truly was.

LAMBERSON: Great. And do you have any advice for young men and women who are entering the service now?

McWILLIAMS: Well, I was not . . . uh well, yeah. I mean, I was on a hospital ship, and there were some uh women nurses on there. But that's the only ship that I was on that uh . . . that had nurses. Uh and the rest of us, we were called "hospital corpsmen." We were nurses, but they were men corpsmen, and that's what they called them. Uh so . . .

LAMBERSON: But do you have any advice for uh . . . for young people now who want to go join the military? Things you would tell them? Words of wisdom?

McWILLIAMS: I think that anything they wanted to do, they . . . they should do it if they want to do it. Being uh pilots or anything else like that. If they have the guts to do it, boy, have at it.

LAMBERSON: Go for it, huh?

McWILLIAMS: You bet. I think it . . . because it's . . . it . . . it . . . it's good training, I think. Uh there's a lot of information I would've never got had I not been in the service. And uh I was just very fortunate.

LAMBERSON: Okay. Uh anything else? Anything from your Air Force years that I didn't ask about that you want to tell us about? Any particular stories that we missed?

McWILLIAMS: No, I had my own plane.

LAMBERSON: Oh, yeah?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah, and I . . .

LAMBERSON: Tell me about that.

McWILLIAMS: Well, I . . . I went over . . . I bought it in Midland. I had my training, and uh I noticed that this ship was uh . . . was um for sale over in Midland. And so, I rode over to Midland, and uh I visited the people that had the . . .

LAMBERSON: The plane?

McWILLIAMS: The plane for sale.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: So, uh we went up in it and tried it like that, and everything was fine. I thought, “Okay, I’ll . . . I’ll buy this.” And by that time, it was getting pretty low, I mean dark, and I had never landed a ship in the dark before. And I . . . I was heading back from Midland as fast as I could and everything, and here was San Angelo way on up here that I had to get there. And I got there just dark . . . I mean just uh soon enough before it got so dark that I couldn’t see the runway. But another thirty minutes, and I wouldn’t have been able to see that runway. And I don’t know where I’d have landed then.

LAMBERSON: Um-hum. Wow.

McWILLIAMS: But, anyway, uh . . .

LAMBERSON: Did you buy it?

McWILLIAMS: Yes, I did, yeah. I had about three different airplanes while I was . . . and did things all over the place and everything.

LAMBERSON: And so, you were training to be a pilot when you first joined the Air Force?

McWILLIAMS: No, I was out of the Air Force whenever I got to pilot, yeah.

LAMBERSON: That . . . that’s great.

McWILLIAMS: But I followed it down and . . . and did the things. Gosh, I took my family to . . . to Mexico and . . . and uh California and . . . and up in uh different places all over. We . . . we enjoyed the time, didn’t we, honey?

M. ADAMS: Um-hum.

McWILLIAMS: Fun.

LAMBERSON: Sounds like fun.

McWILLIAMS: It was. I tried to do everything I could to make our family a wonderful family. And I think it was. I think it’s absolutely the greatest there is.

LAMBERSON: And you came back and lived in San Angelo then for the rest of your . . . until now? Until the present?

McWILLIAMS: Uh-huh. Yeah.

M. ADAMS: No.

McWILLIAMS: Well, no. I moved away to . . . to . . .

M. ADAMS: Ruidoso.

McWILLIAMS: No. Well, yeah, for just a little while. Yeah.

M. ADAMS: And then Tennessee.

McWILLIAMS: Oh, yeah, and then up into uh . . . yeah, I'd forgot about Ruidoso.

M. ADAMS: Yeah. He had a . . .

McWILLIAMS: I was there for about two or three years.

LAMBERSON: Okay.

McWILLIAMS: And then I went up into uh . . .

M. ADAMS: Tennessee.

McWILLIAMS: Tennessee, yeah, and was there for about five years. Or . . .

LAMBERSON: How was . . . how did you like that?

McWILLIAMS: Real good. Yeah, I liked that. I was out of the service and everything and . . . and uh . . . uh wasn't a medic . . . wasn't a medic anymore. But uh it was just . . . I just had good company, good people. So, I was just really blessed.

M. ADAMS: He . . . he wrote this story, his life story, while he was there, and . . .

LAMBERSON: In Tennessee? Okay.

M. ADAMS: In Tennessee, yeah. And he wrote about the *U.S.S. Kanawha* being sunk, and that's, you know, where he rescued that fellow. Well, while he was there in Tennessee, in the paper there, there was also a picture of this guy that was on the *U.S.S. Kanawha* that had been saved.

LAMBERSON: Oh, wow.

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

M. ADAMS: And he said he often wondered . . . you know, after it sunk, he often wondered if maybe that was the . . . wouldn't it be cool if that had been the guy that he had saved?

McWILLIAMS: Yeah.

LAMBERSON: Wow.

M. ADAMS: But he was living in uh Knoxville at that time.

LAMBERSON: That's great.

M. ADAMS: But yeah, he's . . .

McWILLIAMS: Oh, I've been very blessed.

LAMBERSON: Sounds like it.

McWILLIAMS: I surely have.

LAMBERSON: All right. Uh anything else?

McWILLIAMS: I can't think of anything.

LAMBERSON: Okay. Can I ask you two to say and spell your names since you're, you know, on here?

M. ADAMS: My name is Mickey McWilliams Adams. And uh my last name is A-D-A-M-S, Adams. My first name is just like the mouse, M-I-C-K-E-Y.

LAMBERSON: Wonderful. And you are . . . ?

M. ADAMS: I am Ron McWilliams's daughter.

LAMBERSON: Wonderful, thank you.

M. ADAMS: And this is my husband.

B. ADAMS: And I am his latest son-in-law.

LAMBERSON: And your name?

B. ADAMS: Bill Adams.

LAMBERSON: Wonderful. Thank you.