

Interviewer: Okay, so first, thanks so much for being here and being a part of this. And could you please state your name for the record?

Frank Jemison: I'm Frank Jemison, Junior, and I grew up at 1045 – 1054 Audubon Drive which is just south of Elvis' house. And when Elvis lived here, there was no house in between, so that was a vacant lot between Elvis and us.

Interviewer: Okay, so does being inside the house evoke any memories for you?

Frank Jemison: Well, I was in this house a lot, mostly after Elvis moved out, but I was here once when Elvis was here, so it was nice just to see it again. I would not have picked the front bedroom out as Elvis', but I was here when I was eight years old. So I was born in 1948, so I guess Elvis was here in '56 and '57. Is that – so, I was eight or nine. I don't remember which it was but.

Interviewer: Can you tell us a little bit about being here for the first time while Elvis was here?

[0:01:00]

Frank Jemison: Well, when we were here, we had – my family had invite Elvis' – Elvis and his parents over for dinner at one point, and Vernon and, I'm sorry, Elvis' mother's name, I – she was Miss Presley to me, but so I – but came.

But and Elvis did not, but my parents were planning on grilling steaks in the back – on our patio, but Miss Presley told us that Elvis didn't eat – that she didn't eat steak and that Elvis didn't eat steak either. She told us Elvis don't even know steak anyway.

So they – and so I remember that Mother was trying to thaw a chicken out, so they could fry some chicken for Miss Presley, and they kept saying that Elvis was coming, but he never came and then we heard motorcycles going off.

[0:02:00]

Now this is not the – but after that happened, they invited us over not to have a meal but just to visit.

And so I came with my – I guess I came with both my parents. I don't remember whether both of them were here or not, but I was here with at least one of my parents. And the house was not exactly organized. I mean I was eight or nine years old. I really

didn't know what an organized house looked like, but I knew it was a little strange.

The – I remember that he had large boxes, like one would get – cardboard boxes like you would get a washing machine delivered in, and he had fan mail in all of those, and he had – I don't know if they were gold records or platinum records. But they were framed but they weren't hung on the wall. They were just stacked against the wall.

And Elvis gave me a tour, and the – again, I wasn't – I went back and I saw Elvis' bedroom.

[0:03:00]

And it had stronger colors than I was ever used to having. I think it had – it seems to me it had purples and greens and oranges and satin sheets of various sorts, and I don't – again, remember what you're like when you're eight, ten, nine years old but I didn't – I thought that was unusual. I'd never seen anything exactly like that, so.

So that's what I remember about the house. I – the Elvis – when Elvis first moved in, there was no fence, but they had to have a fence shortly thereafter. And I remember Elvis, at one point, basically had girls lined up, and he was kissing each one. That was sort of what they seemed to want, and he had all kind of different cars and mostly big Cadillac convertible but he had motorcycles and had all kinds of stuff.

I remember Elvis tried to play touch football with the older boys on the street. We played it in the Dogard yard which is up there about five yards and – but he always attracted too much attention. Elvis was nice. He tried to be one of the people on the street.

[0:04:00]

It was just sort of impossible for him to be one, and let's see. What else do I remember?

When I – the – Elvis – again, it was a vacant lot between our houses, and I remember being out in the driveway with another – one – Frank Dogard, who was an older – slightly older than I am, up the street. Somehow or another, we had a collection of fake Confederate money, and we were out in the driveway counting it. And this was the time for the Memphis Midsouth Fair.

And Elvis, somehow or another, landed in the vacant lot in a helicopter. It was very exciting, but it blew our Confederate money everywhere, and I was disturbed about the Confederate money. Let's see.

Let me see if I remember. That's – those are my main Elvis memories, I think, so, but.

Interviewer: Dr. ___ was telling me about an occasion where you might have sold some –

[0:05:00]

Frank Jemison: You know, that's a family story which I assume happened. I am a businessperson. They say I was always entrepreneurial, but I have a much younger brother and sister who are babies, almost, two year old and one year old at the time Elvis live here. And he gave them stuffed animals, and there was some report that I wandered up to the crowd.

It was impossible. You couldn't get across the street on Sundays, on the weekends. People were lined up everywhere, sort of impossible and had to put no parking signs on the street for everybody. Otherwise, no one could go, but I sold hairs out of them for 25 cents each. Now, I don't have any real clear recollection of that, but the story has been told so often that I think it must have some truth it but anyway.

But Elvis was accessible, nice. His mama was basically a country lady.

[0:06:00]

And she gave –I think she exchanged preserves or canned tomatoes or something with my mother. I think my mother has talked to you all before, but she may be coming in tonight and she can make up her own stories, I guess.

But anyway but that is what it was like. It was all – no – my recollection is Elvis moved in sort of after he had made *Heartbreak Hotel* and sort of left when he went to the Army, but that may not be straight. I may not have that straight.

Okay? Thanks.

Interviewer: Thank you so much.

[End of Audio]