*[0:00:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* This is Pat Faudry and Bennett Cates this morning, talking with Mrs. Grace Holt – I’m sorry; Grace Rudisill Holt.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Is that the way you want me to sign it?

*Pat Faudry:* That’s fine, yes. And Holt, H-O-L-T at 4369 Gwynn Road in Memphis. This is June 27, 1979. This is a project sponsored by Metropolitan Interfaith Association with a grant from the Tennessee Committee for Humanities.

Ms. Holt, tell us what you remember about your father in, you know, in the neighborhood and his activity? Go ahead. You said you had some notes. Just go ahead.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* When Dr. A. B. Curry, who was pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church decided they needed a church in Evergreen because there was – it was new territory and there were no churches.

*[0:01:00]*

And he asked my father if he would back it. So my father gave the property for the church and they organized it. They had Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Jews, Catholics, anybody who was interested in coming to church. And Dr. McIver became the first pastor. And the church was very lovely in that it was small and everybody worked together. And I did jot down some of the early members because I thought you might be interested in some of those people.

*Pat Faudry:* Just a minute. Where was that located? Where was the property located that he gave?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* On Autumn Avenue at the corner of Dickinson. The church is still there.

*Pat Faudry:* Right across-

*Bennett Cates:* \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ Evergreen Presbyterian, right?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well it’s no longer called that.

*[0:02:00]*

Yes, it was Evergreen Presbyterian.

*Bennett Cates:* I mean it was founded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Pat Faudry:* Do you remember when it was founded?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No.

*Pat Faudry:* We got that; I just wanted it for the tape. I just wondered if you remembered.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* You could get it probably from Second Presbyterian, because that was the mother church.

*Pat Faudry:* Right. Okay. Fine.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And I don’t remember, have any idea how many members there were there. And my mother, who had a lovely soprano voice, led the choir they had; just the four, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. And as I remember it, Ms. Jessie Mahon as head of the Sunday School department. She and her brother, George Mahon, big workers in the Sunday School.

*Pat Faudry:* M-A-H-O-N?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm. They lived on Stonewall, and the Mahon – I think George Mahon or his brother died recently, was a big cotton man, planted in Arkansas.

Now let me see if I can think of anything else about the church.

*[0:03:00]*

I don’t believe so. And then the Evergreen Club was organized by the men in the community to look after the suburb and to get the best of everything that they could. And Colonel Robert Galloway owned so much of the property along in there, he was interested in seeing that they had what they needed that he could supply, and they had so many men who were eager to help and had the financial means of helping, so I don’t know how often they met, but I know that they not only were regular in attendance, but they had a lot of fun with it too, ‘cause I remember a lot of stories my father told, just-

*[0:04:00]*

-different tales.

I remember one, there was a judge, and they teased the judge because he had sentenced somebody to jail, and quite a criminal. And as they were taking him off to jail he screamed back, “I’ll kill you when I get out of here.” So the judge was very uneasy and the men in the neighborhood just had more fun with him every time they could get a little noise at the window or anything, they were teasing him. And I remember my daddy saying they kept him on edge for a long time.

But there was a lot of fun going on in the neighborhood. And then another interesting thing I thought was the zoo, because it was so new. And I think I’m correct in this, you could check me, (4;57) but as I remember, my father said that-

*[0:05:00]*

-Robert Galloway, Colonel Galloway gave the property for Overton Park. And it should never have been called Overton Park, because he gave the ground for it, the acreage, and was vitally interested in it. And Mr. Rightmire was the first zookeeper, he was this German, and he was very, very interested in animals. The only thing he had was one big bear and some snakes, and he loved the children in the neighborhood and he used to call us to come over there. The bear was chained to a big tree, which was right across from the memorial to the soldier, you know, on the drive there going to the zoo? Well there was a big tree right across the road there, and this bear was chained to the tree.

*Bennett Cates:* It was Natch?

*[0:06:00]*

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I’ve forgotten.

*Bennett Cates:* \_\_\_\_ Mr. Carruthers's bear?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I’ve forgotten. I don’t remember that name. But I do remember going over to see the bear and that Mr. Rightmire was there, of course, to watch the children. And then I remember when he got some snakes, that he taught us so much about that. I remember his calling one day to my brother, and well, he called mother and said, “Have the children come over. I have something interesting to show them.” And he had a king snake that was swallowing another snake. Well I couldn’t watch it today, but I did then. And he said that was the way the king snake punished the other snakes. And he taught us a lot about animals that way. He had time then. And I look back on it and think the fun we had and when he got the first geese and we could go over and feed the geese. But just slowly it developed.

And then I remember the streetcar that came down-

*[0:07:00]*

-Poplar, and it got to Evergreen and turned north on Evergreen to Galloway, and then it turned out Galloway to go through the park and on to Binghamton, and Binghamton was the end of the line. And I distinctly remember the streetcar because they had a parade in town one day and I went with a friend. And my mother didn’t like the idea of two little girls being in the – in the – I don’t think we were in the parade; we were just watching it. But the other mother was going, and she was to take us to lunch. And I saw my mother downtown and she said, “Now after lunch you’re going straight home” and I said, “Yes, I am.”

So after lunch we went to a picture show, and I didn’t think to call her. And when I got home, I remember-

*[0:08:00]*

-the streetcar turned on Evergreen off of Poplar, and my brother was there with our dog and I remember him, “You better get home quick. They’ve got the police looking for you.” So that’s the reason I remember the streetcar so vividly, that I was on that streetcar turning on that corner.

*Bennett Cates:* How old do you suppose you were when that happened?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I must’ve been about 12, 10 or 12.

*Pat Faudry:* Your family – I’m sorry, go ahead. Where was your family home?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* On Overton Park at the corner of Hawthorne, and it’s been torn down.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, because of the freeway.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Because of the freeway.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay, so you were on the – just a minute.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* We were on the southwest corner, and our home ran from Hawthorne – it was a large lot there, to, let me see; I don’t know whether there’s another home there or not.

*[0:09:00]*

There’s a little place built on what was our side yard now. There’s a one-story brick house that faces Hawthorne, and that was built in our side yard.

*Pat Faudry*: Okay, so your property ran between Hawthorne and Evergreen then?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm.

*Pat Faudry*: I see, so you actually faced Overton Park?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry*: And then this little brick home is over here.

*Bennett Cates*: And it ran the whole block?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, not the whole block. It ran – that lot here and another, about 300 feet, I’d say.

*Pat Faudry*: Mm hmm.

*Bennett Cates:* Did your brother – did it stay in the family after your father died and you married?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, because before my father died, and we heard that, of course, the expressway was coming. (9:50:05) And my mother had died in 1937, and of course my husband and I sold our home and went back to be with my father,-

*[0:10:00]*

-because my brother had married and moved, and we didn’t want him to be alone. We just had family servants, so our cook and her husband. So we went back to be with him, and we were there for several years. But we knew the expressway was coming, and of course they tried to say, “It won’t come in your lifetime, Mr. Rudisill. Never,” and Daddy said, “Well that’s what you think.”

But he sold that with the understanding that they would not cut up the property. Well the people who bought it didn’t live up to it; it wasn’t but about two years after that they did build that place on there. ‘Cause it didn’t matter to us, but we didn’t want the neighborhood destroyed, because at that time they had not cut through to do all of that in getting ready for the expressway.

*Pat Faudry:* When was that sold?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Let me see. 1960 I-

*[0:11:00]*

No. It was about, I reckon it was between 1957 and ’60.

*Pat Faudry*: That sounds right, because some of the property was being taken after ’60, so that’s probably right.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

*Pat Faudry:* Tell me what you remember about some accomplishments of the Evergreen City Club. I realize you were younger. Do you remember your father speaking of some things? Obviously they were social; they had parties and social events.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, I don’t remember any parties, ‘cause I don’t remember any women being invited. But it was purely looking to have the streets widened where they wanted them, to have any improvements made in the suburb, to-

*[0:12:00]*

-just generally have it protected and watch over it. And I just don’t know of anything, because I would not have had access to anything that went on at the meetings.

*Pat Faudry:* Do you remember them meeting in homes?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes, they met in the private homes. And of course when Colonel Galloway first built that place on Overton Park at the corner of Evergreen, the white stone with the green tower roof, it was on the northwest corner, then-

*Pat Faudry:* Now at the corner of Overton Park and Evergreen?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* At the north-?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Northwest zone.

*Bennett Cates:* That was the clubhouse, wasn’t it?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* That was – that was their home. Then later on the club took it. Then the war-

*[0:13:00]*

*-*came on and they needed housing so badly that they took that and made apartments out of it. And that was kind of the beginning of ruining the neighborhood, because they got by with that. They made about four apartments out of that house, and it infuriated everyone.

*Bennett Cates:* And there were no apartments up to that time?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No. No.

*Bennett Cates:* In that whole neighborhood?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No. They were all private homes.

*Bennett Cates:* And so the Evergreen – isn’t that ironic, the Evergreen Club was the first building to turn into multi-family housing?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* As far as I know. And definitely in that neighborhood. Definitely. There were no apartments. In fact, on our street they were mostly vacant lots. There were very few homes built there. And gradually, of course, it filled up.

*[0:14:00]*

*Bennett Cates:* Who do you remember being prominent in the founding of the Evergreen Club, if you remember hearing those names, besides your father?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Let me see. Well, of course, Mr. Galloway. And then there was a family of Cawthornes who lived on Aldrin.

*Bennett Cates:* How do you spell that?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* C-A-W-T-H-O-R-N-E. I think there’s an E on it; I’m not sure. And they had several daughters and there is one Sally and one Sarah – Blanche, I believe. Sally married an Ozier, and I know she’s a member of Second Church.

And let me see. And the Wooldridges, they were people from-

*[0:15:00]*

-Atlanta, Georgia who lived here. And then the Lockwoods and the Leroit-Coors. And-

*Bennett Cates:* Is that Dorothy Jane Kerr-Emerson’s family?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm. Yes. She lived there. In fact, their home was next to ours for years. And you see, when they sold ours they bought – well, part of our lot was, they built a duplex there, between the Kerr’s and our house. (15;34;18) But that’s where Dorothy Jane lived.

And then the Bob Coors and the Mancinis and the Pidgens were all on that side of Overton Park, down that way. That was Phil Pidgen. And the Mancinis, I’ve forgotten his first name. Then they moved out here. The Mancinis \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of property right back over us, right back in here, and they lived there for years.

*[0:16:00]*

And I don’t know who – they’ve opened that up now and built on it. And let me see if I can think of anything else.

*Pat Faudry*: Ozier, O-Z-I-E-R?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No. Let me see. Oh, Sally Ozier, yes. Excuse me. I was-

*Pat Faudry*: I’m sorry, I was getting-

*Bennett Cates*: She was Sarah Cawthorne?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. Sally Cawthorne. And then Dr. Ernest Kelly – they – I put – now I’ve forgotten just when the Kellys moved there.

*Bennett Cates:* She said they’d been there 38 years. Now we haven’t interviewed her, but they would’ve come in the early ‘40s, around 1940.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. Mm hmm. And the Stewarts were another family. They’ve died out. But Eleanor Stewart-

*[0:17:00]*

*-* married Teddy Carr from Clarksdale, and her father was interested in it.

*Pat Faudry:* Of these people that you’ve named, we can get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_-

*Bennett Cates:* Or is it Kellys?

*Pat Faudry:* There were some judges. There was a Camille Kelly who was a judge. What was her husband’s name? Do you remember?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I don’t remember.

*Pat Faudry:* But she had sons. Do you remember their names?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* One was Gerald, but I don’t remember the other.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay, and so you’re not sure how we’d trace them now?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, I’m sorry, but I wouldn’t have any idea.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Bennett Cates:* Is the – tell us about Dr. Walter H. Pistole, P-I-S-T-O-L-E.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* As I remember, I think he was the one, Dr. Pistole, across the Overton Park from the Galloways. Because when Colonel Galloway built his present or the last home, which-

*[0:18:00]*

-the big mansion there, he wanted his doctor near to him, and he built that place for Dr. Pistole to be close to him. And they were very lovely people, he and his wife. They were just-

*Bennett Cates:* Where was the Pistole house?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* On the corner of Overton Park and McLean.

*Bennett Cates:* With the turret? It’s a turret on one side?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, that’s next to it. You know, I think that – I can’t remember whether that was the Pistole’s house, the yellow brick, and that doesn’t seem like the name of the doctor. Did anyone give you another doctor’s name?

*Bennett Cates:* Dr. Francis Murphy.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No.

*Bennett Cates:* So it could’ve been a different-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I don’t remember the Pistole’s name, but it seems to me that he was in the yellow brick. And I can’t be sure.

*[0:19:00]*

But anyway-

The

*Bennett Cates:* He was a surgeon, wasn’t he?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well then, the surgeon was in – the one – in the red brick on the southwest corner of Overton Park and McLean. And Colonel Galloway built that house and gave it to him to have him there near him.

*[Inaudible]*

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And she had quite a rose garden, beautiful rose garden there. And then the Herbert Jordans lived there a long time. They built that lovely place right across from McLean, on the high hill.

*Bennett Cates:* Yeah. Quite a stately home.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Large. Mm hmm. That was the Herbert Jordans.

*Bennett Cates:* What was their family name?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Herbert Jordan.

*Bennett Cates:* Was it spelled like Jordan?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm.

*Pat Faudry:* J-O-R-D-A-N?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And she – Herbert Jr. died and she lives on Lombardi. She’s a widow. (19;58;11)

*Bennett Cates:* Okay.

*[0:20:00]*

Oh, that’s a good story. Ira Pyrom, P-Y-R-O-M.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I remember the name, but I can’t remember anything about it.

*Bennett Cates:* Mr. Canale said that he had heard that Louise Bennett Clark, who was the first curator of Brooks, and her husband, who was an architect, had designed and built his home on Forrest, but he had never been able to – it’s 1766 Forrest. Do you know if they-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* 1756.

*Bennett Cates:* 1766 Forrest. Do you remember the Clarks living on Forrest?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No.

*Bennett Cates:* Do you remember her? She – he said he remembered her, just barely.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, I don’t.

*Bennett Cates:* Louise Bennett Clark.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Now there was a family of Chapmans who lived on Forrest at the corner of Hawthorne, and she was quite-

*[0:21:00]*

-a musician, played the piano beautifully. But I don’t remember anything else about them.

*Bennett Cates:* Did you go to Snowden?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I went to Snowden for about seven years, and then transferred to St. Mary’s Episcopal. And I graduated St. Mary’s.

*Bennett Cates:* Do you remember the principal? And I can’t remember the – Mr. Canale also said the principal of Snowden married a lady in the neighborhood, I can’t remember her name, and moved into the Galloway – the big Galloway house at one time. Does that ring a bell? The Pace \_\_\_\_ home.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No.

*Bennett Cates:* But he couldn’t remember who the principal was there.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* When I started at Snowden School, of course that property was given by Mr. Snowden, and it was-

*[0:22:00]*

-there were four big rooms, and that – it opened that year. And they had – the desks hadn’t come, and we sat on the floor. And my teacher in the second grade was Martha Doyle, who married Mr. Canale. And her daughter, Martha Doyle Canale, has a little shop for materials and things there in the 1776 Building.

*Pat Faudry:* Martha’s Fabric – is that – I’ve heard-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* What do they call that little \_\_\_\_\_?

*Bennett Cates:* That doesn’t sound right, but I know it’s Martha’s. I think that’s what they call it.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* It’s Martha’s.

*Bennett Cates:* Yeah. So this is Mr. John Ford Canale’s daughter? I wouldn’t think so.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, it doesn’t seem John Ford. It was Phil Canale.

*Bennett Cates:* Yeah, yeah. ‘Cause-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* See, Phil Canale, the lawyer, is married to Canita Crabtree.

*Bennett Cates:* That’s – yes.

*[0:23:00]*

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And Martha

*Bennett Cates:* They could be a generation younger than Mr. John Ford.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. And Martha Doyle’s mother, Martha Doyle, who was a little bit younger than my mother, because – and Martha’s younger than I am, but her mother taught me in the second grade; she was just about 20 years old. And I adored her; she was perfectly beautiful. And her – I remember going to the wedding, she asked – I had long golden curls, and I remember a note that she wrote to my mother, and when the wedding came she said, “I want you to bring my golden-haired girl to my wedding.” So I got to go to the wedding and I’ve never forgotten it.

*Bennett Cates:* Well, have the Evergreen Club been instrumental in locating a public school there for the neighborhood?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I don’t know.

*Bennett Cates:* That’s-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* See, I was-

*[0:24:00]*

-I started when I was about five years old, just ready to start at six. So I just don’t know whether – don’t remember anything about it.

*Bennett Cates:* Well did Mr. Snowden, who gave the land, live in the neighborhood, or just on the land?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, they lived – they owned Central, Noel Snowden Home. But Tom Snowden, their son, came over. He was in my class. And there was so few schools then, and of course his father gave him the land, was interested in it, and they built it. And Tom and I stayed friends all our lives. He died seven years ago.

*Bennett Cates:* Do you remember having black servants living behind the houses in the quarters?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Ours always did. We had the garage and the servant’s quarters above, and that was-

*Pat Faudry:* Are any of your servants still living, the ones that were in your house? Are any of them still living?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Not in that house.

*[0:25:00]*

Our nanny, who came when I was about 12 years old, stayed with us 47 years, and her husband was there until he died. And then when Nanny, before she died she was sick and I wanted someone to take her place because I had the two little girls, that was when – after Mother died and I went back with Daddy. So I had the two little girls and I had to have a nurse

Begin segment 6: (00:25;37;02)

and I needed a cook to take Nanny’s place. So she was sitting in the kitchen and I was in the breakfast room, interviewing, and that’s when Claudia came. And Claudia was sitting with her back to the kitchen and I talked to her and I looked in the kitchen and old Nanny was going this way, to take her. So I took Claudia there to take Nanny’s place, and she’s still living. She stayed with us until-

*[0:26:00]*

-about five years ago, and we had to pension her. She’s in Mississippi, but I hear from her; she calls me up all the time long distance and we chat and we look after her. But she’s with her kin people. She’s not able to work ‘cause she has arthritis and she can’t do much work.

*Pat Faudry:* Do you remember – the rule in the neighborhood was that they have the servants that, nurses, cooks, gardeners, whatever, and they did live with the family. We have wanted to get in touch, if possible, with some of those people who lived in the neighborhood as servants and as attached to the help. Do you have any names that we might go to for that sort of thing?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well of course when we sold the house and moved out on Poplar Claudia came with us, and she was there until – well, we sold to Memphis State; they had three acres there on Poplar and they wanted that for Memphis State.

*[0:27:00]*

So she was with us all that time, and she and her husband had a little apartment back at the garage right there.

*Pat Faudry:* Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Well \_\_\_\_ she who lived in Evergreen area, we would love to get in touch with some of the people-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Most of ‘ems dead. *[Laughs]*

*Pat Faudry:* We found you.

*Bennett Cates:* Do you remember Will?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Huh?

*Bennett Cates:* Do you remember Will? We’ve had two people tell us he was a handyman that worked up and down the streets and did all kinds of things for all kinds of people in the neighborhood and became well known.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Really? Probably did.

*Bennett Cates:* Three people now.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* You see, Nanny’s husband did it all for us, so.

*Pat Faudry:* Did the servants have children?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. I was wondering if they had children, where they went to school.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No.

*Pat Faudry:* None of them had children? They were older and?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well, I don’t know how that happened, but you didn’t have any children on the place. You know, there was a distinct line, never, never any dark ones with the-

*[0:28:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* With the light ones, yeah.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* -light ones, never.

*Pat Faudry:* The white kids didn’t play with the dark kids at all?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Oh no.

*Pat Faudry:* And there just weren’t any – well, there weren’t any black kids in the neighborhood.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Oh no, never. There were – those who didn’t live on the place lived far enough to come by bus – streetcar then.

*Pat Faudry:* And when and if they had children they just stayed home.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And bus when they came, ‘cause the buses came on. But they didn’t-

*Bennett Cates:* You were probably too young to know about this, if it were so, but do you remember ever hearing anything about the Evergreen Club acting in politics as a group, supporting a candidate or putting up a candidate or being prominent in any sort of civic campaign, citywide?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No. I don’t. I don’t remember a thing about politics except my father was always interested in it, and he and Mr. Crump were very, very close friends.

*[0:29:00]*

And my father always worked at the polls, he was always there.

*Bennett Cates:* Behind McGelway House? Isn’t that where the polls were in your neighborhood?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. Yes. There and the garage.

*Bennett Cates:* Mm hmm. Mr. Jim \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And I know that I always heard what was going on when Crump was doing different things, ‘cause I’d hear Daddy talking with Mother about it. But I don’t know any of the details of what, you know, Evergreen did or \_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Bennett Cates:* Well did your father ever serve in any official capacity for Mr. Crump?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Never. He always wanted him to, but my father wouldn’t. They tried to get him to be mayor, they tried to get him to be postmaster. They tried – Crump said, “Name it and you’ve got it,” but he wouldn’t.

*Bennett Cates:* Why would he say that he wouldn’t take an official post?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well, he was busy with his business and he-

*[0:30:00]*

I don’t know why. I guess he just didn’t want to. But I remember them saying that when – that Crump cleaned up the city. So Daddy used to tell my husband Bill and me about it, and he said that it was overridden with low-down, contemptible women, that they were just flaunting themselves all, and that Crump just – they said that couldn’t be taken care of river city, and he said he took care of that right now. And anytime there was any trouble with a black person, that was cleared up just like that. And he said that if raping wasn’t – they didn’t consider one minute; they just took him down to Main and Madison and hung him, and that was the quickest way to get – and then we didn’t have any more trouble.

*Bennett Cates:* This was under Mr. Crump?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. I wish we’d do it right now.

*[0:31:00]*

(31:09:24)

*Bennett Cates:* Well what was your – you said that your father was so busy with his business; what was his business?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* It was coal. I’ll read you this, but \_\_\_\_ to you, “February 10, 1876, the son of Georgia Edwin and Emma Howell Rudisill received his early education in the public schools of Memphis, but at the age of 11 years stopped school and went to work, his first position being with the Milburn \_\_\_\_\_ Company. He remained there till 1890, then went with Conaway Real Estate Agent, \_\_\_\_\_\_ charge of the rental department, and then he went with a coal manufacturing company, where he was charged with that company’s city books for three years.

*[0:32:00]*

-added to it as we could, but I just don’t know where it is. And it was so hot in the attic. I went up there to look, but I didn’t know which box it would be in.

*Bennett Cates:* I bet the Memphis Room would love to have that, if you ever \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well, I want my grandchildren to have it.

*Bennett Cates:* Oh yeah.

*Pat Faudry:* Do you know of anybody else, pictures and clippings and that sort of thing are really valuable to us, because, especially pictures, because when we – I wish we had the book so you could see what products we’ve had from other neighborhoods. In fact, I might just drop by and show you sometimes. But we would love to have some old pictures that, you know, people just don’t see otherwise.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Let me have your telephone number so if I-

*Pat Faudry:* They’re right – it’s right here.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Oh, it’s on there. All right.

*Pat Faudry:* And so if you come up with some records or some other information – when you shopped for groceries did you ever go down there on Poplar? I think there was a grocery store down there near where Drake’s was.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Oh yes. But I guess-

*[0:33:00]*

-at first, when I was a child they ordered groceries from Baldwin, Knowlton, & Lake, which was located on Second Street, where old James S. Robinson was, across from the Exchange Building. And they ordered and delivered with a wagon, and you’d – I guess mother would call one day and they’d deliver the next. But anyway, you know, that’s the way they were done when I was a little thing. And then, of course, I don’t know how long that took or anything; I just remember way back that that was – I can barely remember that name and seeing that horse and wagon driver.

But then most of the shopping – I mean I remember as a girl mother shopped on Poplar. There was a Mr. Dietrich-

*[0:34:00]*

*-*whose brother was a jeweler, and he had his office there on Madison, in the Porter Building I believe, but you entered from Madison. There’s a very fine jeweler, and his brother had this grocery, and at first I’m not sure whether it was a Kroger or not, but anyway, Mr. Dietrich was there, and he was just a perfectly darling person.

*Pat Faudry:* And this was on Poplar?

*Bennett Cates:* Where was that?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* On Poplar.

*Pat Faudry:* Near – are you talking about-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Between – let me see, at first it was on the south side of the street, and then it moved to the – no, it was on the north side of the street and then it moved to the south side of the street. And I’m trying to think of what they called that grocery.

*Pat Faudry:* Was it near Evergreen?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes, just east of Evergreen.

*Pat Faudry:* Right. Mm hmm. Just east of Evergreen?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm.

*[0:35:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* Oh. Would it have been across the street from the cleaners, from Drake’s Cleaners then?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. But Drake, of course, faces Evergreen.

*Pat Faudry:* Right.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And this faced Poplar.

*Pat Faudry:* Faced Poplar. But it was across Evergreen from Charles Drake?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes. Yes. Mm hmm.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* East of Evergreen.

*Pat Faudry:* Because someone told us of another grocery that was, faced Poplar, but it was west of Charles Drake. It was-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well now, that – that’s still – no, I don’t believe it’s still there, but that was there a long, long time. It was a Liberty Grocery Store.

*Pat Faudry:* And that was after what you were talking about?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. Then that’s what I want to know from you. You say that the one you’re talking about was across Evergreen, east of Charles Drake, but if faced Poplar. And you think a Mr. Dietrich had it.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Bennett Cates:* Were they German?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I just don’t know, but he was perfectly lovely. He was the type man, I remember-

*[0:36:00]*

-after my mother died and I took over – I guess I can’t remember whether I was shopping for Mother, but anyway, it was when you couldn’t get sugar and different things, and he would have something under the counter, and when I’d get home I’d find it in my bag. And of course we charged everything and it – he’d put it on my bill, but he never let us run out of anything. So as Daddy said in this thing, the coals, you see, I had forgotten just when that was, but I guess it was after World War II or during the war sometime, but anyway, things were so scarce, kind of like we’re looking towards right now. (36:53:03)

*Pat Faudry:* The house your father had on Overton Park, did he build it? I mean did he have it built?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* He bought it while it was being built.

*[0:37:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* Do you remember when it was being built?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I have no idea. But it was – no, I just don’t. I remember he and my mother were walking one Sunday afternoon and they passed it, went through it, and she said, “I think it’s going to be a beautiful house.” He said, “Do you like it?” and she said, “Oh, I think it’s beautiful,” and he came home the next day and it was hers. And she said she cried her eyes out and he couldn’t understand it. She said, “I just – I just don’t want it. It was too big for me and I just – I didn’t mean I wanted it.”

*[Laughter]*

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Isn’t that funny? But I remember that tale.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* But she loved it after she got it.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah. Now you said you were five. Did you live there – I mean were you born there? Or at least they were living there when you were born?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, I was born in my grandmother’s home, which was on E Street at the corner of, of course, that’s been-

*[0:38:00]*

-torn down too. *[Laughs]* But don’t you know where Linden goes through and at E Street – do you know where E Street is? It runs into the Baptist Hospital, you know?

*Pat Faudry:* Oh yes.

*Bennett Cates:* Yeah.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well, Linden came, and right there at the corner was-

*Pat Faudry:* Oh yeah.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Do you know where the old Coward place is up there that they made into the restaurant?

*Bennett Cates:* Oh, Justine’s.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Justine’s.

*Pat Faudry:* Justine’s, yeah.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Mm hmm. Well that was my friend, Carol Elizabeth Johnston, that was their home. And then Leon Miles lived there and Virginia Robinson, the old Robinson home, and we were on down further. My grandmother and grandfather were, William Boling Wiseacres, and my mother and father lived there and that’s where I was born.

*[0:39:00]*

*Bennett Cates:* Was that around – is it on \_\_\_\_\_\_?

*Pat Faudry:* Do you know anything about a Lake family? What do you remember about the Lake family? Now, you mentioned a grocer, I believe three people together down on Second Street that you said – Boswell, something and-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Baldwin, Knowlton, & Lake, but I had no idea who they were. Of course, the Knowltons were kin, Percy and Milton Knowlton, and Milbruck Carruthers married a Knowlton.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, sure.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* That was that family.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And then what did you ask?

*Pat Faudry:* The Lake family, what do you remember about? Now it may not have been that family; you know, it may not have been these grocers.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, that was not the same family.

*Pat Faudry:* Not the same. Okay, tell me about the family you knew, where they lived and what-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* On McLean, at the – where Carr Avenue runs into McClain. Is that the family you mean?

*Pat Faudry:* I think it is. Where Carr runs into McLean. Okay. Tell me what you know about them.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well, they have-

*[0:40:00]*

-lived there as long as I can remember. They were family friends. And it was a large family, Donaldson Lake.

*Pat Faudry:* Are there other Lakes still living? Is there part of that family still living?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Well Don died. His wife is still living; she remarried and then her second husband died.

*Pat Faudry:* What is her name now? I mean how would we get in touch with her?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I can’t think of Jean’s married name right now. Sorry, I can’t think right now. But she could tell you about them. And then Charlie Lake would love to tell you about his family. He lives on the Halbert; he’s an invalid.

*Pat Faudry:* Charlie Lake.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Charlie – Charles H. Lake. Charles Heffner Lake.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, we’ll get in touch with him.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* And then the oldest brother died. So many of them died off. And Alice Lake is here,

*[0:41:00]*

-still in one, married, lived in France, Dorothy lived in France for a long time; she’s back here now I think. But they’d love to tell you about the family, ‘cause they love-

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, I’ll get – just okay, north of Jackson you’re saying was just the end of nowhere, it was just not used at all.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* That was the end of the city.

*Pat Faudry:* Mm hmm. Okay.

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* Maybe there was something there that I didn’t know anything about, but to me that was the end; it was just wilderness, swampy. Of course, you could get into Raleigh over bridges.

*Pat Faudry:* Which reminds me, do you know anything about a Raleigh Springs Railroad?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, but I know at one time there was one.

*Pat Faudry:* You don’t know where it was or anything about it? You just remember hearing about it?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* I know that there was a streetcar at one time that went out, because-

*[0:42:00]*

-when I was a little thing and was a Girl Scout we went out to Raleigh to walk. We went – we had to – I think we walked all the way out there, and walking back we got on the trestle where the car was coming, and the streetcar started coming. And the roadman called to us just to take our time; we didn’t know what we were going to do, they were on the trestle. And I remember that, Mother knew about it and it scared her to death.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah. Do you think that the streetcar and this train were using the same track? Is that what you mean?Grace

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, I don’t think so.

*Pat Faudry:* No? Okay. Out of the houses that were built in the area, you’ve mentioned three houses that I know of that you said the Galloways built, Paisley Hall and the one over there that eventually became the Evergreen Club, and then the house that he built-

*[0:43:00]*

-for this physician that he wanted near him. What other houses do you know of that they had interest in, the Galloways had interest in over there?

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* No, I don’t think so. I think they were the only ones.

*Pat Faudry:* Was there one on – was there one on-

*Grace Rudisill-Holt:* \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*[End of Audio]*