*Pat Faudry:* This is Pat Faudry with Beana Cates. We’re speaking with Mrs. Busby – Mrs. J.R. Busby, spelled B-U-S-B-Y at 1669 North Parkway in Memphis. This is a project sponsored by Metropolitan Interfaith Association through a grant from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities. This morning we’re talking with Ms. Busby because she has lived in this MMIA area for quite some time.

Okay. Now then, you said that when you were younger, about what years were these that you’re –

*Busby:* Well, let me see, the years I couldn’t possibly tell you. My parents built this home, and we moved in, and I started in the fourth grade of Snowden School.

*[0:01:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* Uh-huh.

*Busby:* And I finished there, and then I went to Central High to finish my high school education, and then I got married.

*Pat Faudry:* And then you lived in here. When you said that you went to the fourth grade at Snowden, do you remember any approximate times that they built this house – approximate years that they built the house?

*Busby:* Oh. Well, it’s been at least over 50 years ago.

*Pat Faudry:* Uh-huh. Now, before that, did you live in this area; before this house was built, did you live in this area?

*Busby:* No, my father was a Methodist minister, and I was born in Germantown, and then my father was given the pastorate in Collierville, and then –

*[0:02:00]*

*–* he was given the pastorate at Buntyn .

*Pat Faudry:* At Buntyn Methodist?

*Busby:* Hm?

*Pat Faudry:* At Buntyn – oh, St. Lukes?

*Busby:* Well, that’s what it is called now –

*Pat Faudry:* But then it was Buntyn Methodist.

*Busby:* – but it was on Southern –

*Pat Faudry:* Right.

*Busby:* – at that time.

*Pat Faudry:* Is that right? We just got through doing the history of the Buntyn area. That’s why I was so surprised to hear you say that.

*Busby:* *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* That’s interesting. So, he was given that pastorate. Now, did you live in Buntyn while he –

*Busby:* Oh, of course.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum.

*Busby:* That was in – what was the year that we had the tremendous snow? I guess we lived there from World War I because the Southern Railroad went in front of the house, and I, as a child –

*[0:03:00]*

*–* used to take out two straight pins, put them on the railroad tracks, and then I had scissors. *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, yeah. Huh.

*Busby:* But I’ve had an interesting life.

*Bena Cates:* So, your father came here from his pastorate then in Button?

*Busby:* Yes – no – yes – no.

*Bena Cates:* Was it Trinity?

*Busby:* Hm?

*Bena Cates:* Oh, did he come to Trinity –

*Busby:* No.

*Bena Cates:* – Methodist? What was the pastorate in this neighborhood?

*Busby:* He did not have a pastorate. He was, shall I say, the layette – well, he was executive secretary of the general conference of the Methodist church.

*Pat Faudry:* We ought to get his name. Give me –

*Busby:* Lud Estes.

*Pat Faudry:* Say it again.

*Busby:* Lud, L-U-D, Estes –

*[0:04:00]*

– E-S-T-E-S.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay, fine. We need that for the tape for spelling.

*Busby:* *[Laughter]* But when he died many – oh, well, not many years ago, but editorially wise they called him Mr. Methodist.

*Pat Faudry:* Is that right?

*Bena Cates:* Hm.

*Pat Faudry:* Hm, so he really helped – he really helped to build the Methodist church in those early years.

*Busby:* Yes, because you see, it was the Southern Methodist church to begin with. He was a member of that, and then the northern and southern churches decided *[Phone ringing]* together, and – excuse me – here in the city.

*Begin Segment 2: [0:05:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* Your grandfather was Judge Estes.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. So, this was your father’s father, okay.

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Bena Cates:* You talked about the editorials and all of the columns talked about your father as Mr. Methodist, do you have scrapbooks and the columns or pictures?

*Busby:* No, I don’t keep things like that because after all, if I can’t remember, then what is the point of going back and reading?

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah, yeah. Does the year 1928-27, would that have been around the time that he would’ve built here?

*Busby:* Oh, no. He had built here prior to that, and then he sold his home because a home –

*[0:06:00]*

*–* well, no, it wasn’t furnished to him, but he sold his home at a profit, and then the person who purchased it reneged and then we had to take it back. So, Buzz and I – my husband and I moved here after the payment was not made. We moved here in the early ‘30s.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum.

*Busby:* And until my hus – well, of course, we lived here until – and I’m living here until my husband’s death back in ’68.

*Pat Faudry:* I see. Tell me –

*[0:07:00]*

– let’s go back to the time when you mentioned that you had walked down Dickinson.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* You had walked down Dickinson to – what street was the streetcar on?

*Busby:* Tutwiler, I believe.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Busby:* Let’s see, Faxon, Tutwiler, yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. And how old were you when you would do this? You’d walk down there and then go into town.

*Busby:* Up to the Women’s building for music lessons. I would say that I was about ten years old.

*Pat Faudry:* And you’d take music from the DeShazo sisters at the Women’s building.

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Pat Faudry:* It was located where?

*Busby:* At third and Jefferson.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay, third and Jefferson.

*Busby:* Of course, it’s not there anymore.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Busby:* What is there anymore? *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* Who were your friends that you remember at this period whose families are still here or the people themselves living in the neighborhood?

*[0:08:00]*

*Busby:* Yes, I wanted to mention that. They’re not living in the neighborhood, but the Kerr’s, K-E-R-R –

*Bena Cates:* Dorothy Jane Kerr-Emerson?

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, I –

*Busby:* Yes, she was in our wedding.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, huh.

*Bena Cates:* She lives out of the neighborhood now, but her parents were charter members –

*Busby:* Were on Overton Park.

*Bena Cates:* – of Trinity Methodist too; were they not?

*Busby:* I do not know.

*Bena Cates:* Okay.

*Busby:* But they lived on Overton Park.

*Bena Cates:* Oh. Who were some of the others?

*Busby:* About a block off of Evergreen East, and then there’s someone else that you all possibly would like to contact is June Pope. She is Mrs. Ben Pentecost, and she lives – she and her mother live –

*[0:09:00]*

*–* in the high-rise apartment building across from the park. I don’t know what number that is, but for what –

*Pat Faudry:* She and her mother both live there.

*Busby:* Yes, so I understand.

*Pat Faudry:* Uh-huh, okay.

*Busby:* But why you all were set on me, I don’t know. *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* Well, you’re having a busy morning – other families that moved together, kind of?

*Busby:* Well, let’s see. The Smith’s, but she’s dead, both the daughter and the mother. Jiminy Christmas.

*Bena Cates:* Where did June – where did the Pope’s live? I didn’t realize they lived in the neighborhood.

*Busby:* They lived on –

*[0:10:00]*

– the corner of Evergreen –

*Bena Cates:* Which house?

*Busby:* No, it was this way.

*Bena Cates:* Right. June lived on Jackson later.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum.

*Busby:* But they were south, and I do not know the name of the street, but they lived on the corner.

*Bena Cates:* Um-hum.

*Pat Faudry:* Of Evergreen and something.

*Busby:* Hm?

*Pat Faudry:* The corner of Evergreen and something.

*Busby:* Yeah.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Busby:* *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. Well, that helps to locate a little bit.

*Busby:* It’s about, I would say, a couple of blocks north of Poplar.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, okay.

*Bena Cates:* Yeah.

*Begin Segment 3: [0:10:37]*

*Busby:* I cannot come up with the name of the street, and something that was interesting on Evergreen, I would say between Peach and Poplar, it was nothing but a field –

*[0:11:00]*

*–* and every summer would come the Shitaqua.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, yeah.

*Busby:* *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Bena Cates:* Tell what a Shitaqua was.

*Busby:* A Shitaqua was a place that was for free, and they had, all right, potters that also expressed a certain degree of – hm, can’t come up with the word, but all right, this potter would have his clay working on the potter’s wheel, and then on purpose –

*[0:12:00]*

– he would put a piece of straw in that clay, and the thing that he was trying to create would crumble because there was a piece of straw in it; it wasn’t pure.

*Pat Faudry:* Huh, very interesting. Would you have plays; would there be plays?

*Busby:* Oh, that would be a certain – no, not plays, a certain degree of entertainment.

*Bena Cates:* Clowns, that sort of thing or –

*Busby:* Oh, no. Hum-um. No.

*Pat Faudry:* Musicians?

*Busby:* It was just people with a good sense of humor –

*Pat Faudry:* Oh.

*Bena Cates:* Oh.

*Busby:* – and they entertained the children quite a bit.

*Bena Cates:* Were they traveling shows? These people would go from place –

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* – to place?

*Busby:* Yes, um-hum. Well, they’re not local.

*Bena Cates:* Were they gypsies or you know –

*Busby:* Oh, no. *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* They were just –

*Busby:* They were not gypsies, thieves. *[Laughter]*

*[0:13:00]*

*Bena Cates:* Oh, no, I didn’t think of those as –

*Busby:* No, they would go from place to place, but it was up here on Evergreen, and the majority of the children in the neighborhood went.

*Bena Cates:* It was a great neighborhood festival, kind of, wasn’t it?

*Busby:* Event, yes.

*Bena Cates:* And you’d see everybody in the neighborhood.

*Busby:* *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* Well, would they go from neighborhood to neighborhood, or would it be just –

*Busby:* No, no.

*Bena Cates:* That’d be the only place they’d play –

*Busby:* This was the only –

*Bena Cates:* – in town.

*Busby:* – place in Memphis that they played.

*Pat Faudry:* How long did they stay there?

*Busby:* A week, ten days.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum, okay.

*Bena Cates:* It was like would take the place of the circus, wouldn’t it, sort of, for the –

*Busby:* No, it was not of that caliber at all. It was –

*[0:14:00]*

*–* well, as I explained about the potter, it was educational to a great degree, but it was done in such a way that it was appealing to the children.

*Bena Cates:* Entertaining as well as educational.

*Busby:* Yes, and you always came home with something that your mind had grasped while you were there.

*Bena Cates:* Someone who’s spoken to me of those Shitaquas that lived in the neighborhood was Mr. Jeff Mormon. Did you know Mr. Mormon?

*Busby:* Oh, yes. Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* And he spoke of it also.

*Bena Cates:* Yes. They lived on Evergreen.

*Pat Faudry:* This is the first I’ve heard it.

*[0:15:00]*

*Busby:* Oh. Well, he’s dead.

*Bena Cates:* No, no. She’s dead, but he’s very much alive, and he lived up – they lived near Mr. Drake on Evergreen, across from Drake’s cleaners. That –

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* – is the one you’re thinking of. No, he’s living here and remembers all this, too.

*[Crosstalk]*

*Busby:* Well, that must be the son.

*Bena Cates:* [Inaudible].

*Busby:* The one I knew was older, the father.

*Bena Cates:* Um-hum, um-hum.

*Begin Segment 4: [0:15:31]*

*Pat Faudry:* Do you remember if this came back over a number of ten years; do you remember the number of years that it came back or the –

*Busby:* The Shitaqua?

*Pat Faudry:* Yes.

*Busby:* I would say eight.

*Pat Faudry:* About how old were you when it was here?

*Busby:* *[Laughter]* Mm.

*Pat Faudry:* Were you still going to Snowden School during the time that it was here?

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*[0:16:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* You would’ve been in elementary or not older than junior high then, obviously.

*Busby:* Oh. Well, of course, we didn’t have junior high at that time. You finished the elementary school and went immediately to high school.

*Pat Faudry:* That’s right. That’s right. Yeah. So, it was during those years that the Shi –

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Pat Faudry:* Tell me, when you walked down Dickinson, describe what you saw. I believe you mentioned to me earlier that there were very few houses around.

*Busby:* That’s true. There were only two. There were fields, and the fields had rabbits in them.

*Pat Faudry:* So, this was pretty much still open.

*Busby:* *[Laughter]* Very much so.

*Pat Faudry:* Isn’t that interesting? I was gonna say we had the picture of it being more highly developed than that.

*Busby:* Well, it was not at that time. There was a house, which is still there –

*[0:17:00]*

*–* on the corner of Dickinson and – hm, one street over – Faxon, and it is still there, and unfortunately, that family had a retarded child, and I don’t know who lives there now.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Bena Cates:* Well, was Parkway still the Speedway at that time, and did they race –

*Busby:* Horses.

*Bena Cates:* – out in front of your house?

*Busby:* Horses.

*Bena Cates:* Tell about seeing the horses and buggies race.

*Busby:* Well, there were no buggies –

*Bena Cates:* Oh.

*Busby:* – but the horses – you see, it’s a mile from East Parkway to Stonewall – I mean, just this side of Stonewall.

*[0:18:00]*

So, they would run the horses. Of course, it wasn’t a betting race. It was just –

*Pat Faudry:* What we do now with fast cars. The kids want to see who has the fastest car. Well, then they –

*Busby:* *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* They challenge each other just for fun.

*Pat Faudry:* Just the horses.

*Busby:* Yes, yes, but they would start at East Parkway, and you see, there was a center strip from East Parkway all the way down to close to Stonewall, and that was a mile course.

*Pat Faudry:* So then, these cross streets that crossed where the speedway was must have come in some time later.

*Busby:* No, it was – they were there.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, they were there. People just had to watch out.

*Busby:* But people respected the horses. They don’t respect people.

*[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* I see. That’s interesting.

*[0:19:00]*

Huh.

*Busby:* Just south of here, you know, I told you it was a Shitaqua –

*Pat Faudry:* Right.

*Busby:* – was up on Evergreen between Peach and Poplar.

*Pat Faudry:* Yes.

*Busby:* So, that was an open field at that time.

*Pat Faudry:* What about the houses behind here; were most of these houses directly around you? Were most of these here?

*Busby:* I honestly do not remember.

*Pat Faudry:* Uh-huh.

*Busby:* The house next door, and I cannot think of the name. *[Laughter]* It was a doctor.

*[0:20:00]*

His wife and, I believe, two girls, I don’t think there was a son in that family, but while this home was being built, they had not finished theirs. So, Mr. Bass who built this home was the architect, or call him what you will, he would call my father and say thus and thus and so is missing. It was here last evening when we left – Carnes, Dr. and Mrs. Carnes.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, yeah.

*Busby:* He worked on the –

*[0:21:00]*

– the Panama Canal problem to cut down the stuff, the Malaria.

*Bena Cates:* Is this the family for whom the school and the street are named?

*Busby:* No.

*Bena Cates:* Is it spelled the same?

*Busby:* C-A-R-N-E-S.

*Bena Cates:* But it’s not –

*Busby:* No, no, hum-um. I don’t believe they had a son. I’m sure they didn’t because the girls went to Southwestern, and they were members of Chi Omega, and they used the upstairs room over the garage as their meeting place for that sorority.

*Begin Segment 5: [0:21:58]*

*Bena Cates:* And were your parents involved in the Evergreen Club?

*Busby:* No.

*Bena Cates:* Or were you later a member?

*Busby:* No, no.

*Pat Faudry:* You don’t remember anything about that.

*Bena Cates:* When you said Snowden, I thought – isn’t it true that the Evergreen Club – although it was a city school, Evergreen Club got Snowden –

*Busby:* I don’t know.

*Bena Cates:* – built and established. I think that’s true.

*Busby:* I don’t know.

*Bena Cates:* They did so much in the neighborhood.

*Busby:* I do not know. Of course, Francis Jones lived on Forest. She’s Miss Harold Ohemdoff, but she’s in Osceola.

*Pat Faudry:* She’s in where?

*Busby:* Osceola, Arkansas.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, she lives there now.

*[0:23:00]*

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Busby:* But Francis lived there. Oh, let me think. Oh, my one brain cell is certainly not working. *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. Now this was a person, a man and wife, who lived at the corner of Evergreen and Overton Park.

*Busby:* Yes, and they, of course, had moved from there, but – or they moved, I imagine, because they expected an expressway to come at the back of their property.

*Pat Faudry:* Was he a businessman in the area?

*Busby:* I couldn’t tell you.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*[0:24:00]*

*Busby:* He was a student at Southwestern while he lived at the Jones home on Forest, but you might want to contact Francis Jones-Ohemdoff in Osceola.

*Pat Faudry:* How do you spell Ohemdoff?

*Busby:* O-H-E-M-D-O-F-F, it’s a German name.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, okay.

*Bena Cates:* Did these Carnes girls, do you know if they stayed in Memphis; did they marry?

*Busby:* No, I do not.

*Bena Cates:* You’ve lost track of the Carnes.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* And you mentioned Mr. Bass; did he build - was he a developer of this whole part of the neighborhood?

*Busby:* I don’t know. He built this house. He built the house next door. He built one up on North Parkway in the ten hundred block.

*Bena Cates:* What was his first name?

*[0:25:00]*

*Busby:* I have no idea.

*Bena Cates:* Howard –

*Busby:* It was O.E. Bass.

*Bena Cates:* Someone on another street mentioned him over on Buena Vista. I think he must’ve built –

*Busby:* Quite a number of –

*Bena Cates:* – across the neighborhood. It’d be interesting to –

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Bena Cates:* – run him down.

*Busby:* Well, I don’t know whether he’s still alive or not.

*Bena Cates:* Well, where did you and your family go to church while your father was the executive secretary for the church and didn’t have a parish of his own?

*Busby:* Well, let me see. First, we went to Germantown Church. We went to the Collierville Church. We went to the Button Church. We went to Trinity –

*[0:26:00]*

*–* and then he received the pastorate for Madison Heights prior to my marriage.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh.

*Busby:* And, of course, we went there and St. John’s Methodist.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, he did pastor St. John’s for a while.

*Busby:* No, he did not.

*Pat Faudry:* But you attended there.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah.

*Bena Cates:* But he was the pastor at Madison Heights.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* Which is quite a historic – probably one of the oldest Methodist churches here; is it not?

*Busby:* I do not know.

*Pat Faudry:* Hm. What was your name before you married?

*Busby:* Estes, E-S-T-E-S.

*Pat Faudry:* Your given name, your –

*Busby:* Virginia.

*Pat Faudry:* Virginia, okay.

*Busby: [Laughter]* I still am Virginia.

*Pat Faudry:* Right.

*Busby:* Except my Godchildren call me Gi-Gi. *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* Oh.

*Pat Faudry:* That’s a good name.

*Begin Segment 6: [0:26:55]*

*Busby:* – business, and he was not from Memphis. He was from Friars Point, Mississippiand we, of course, traveled, particularly in the Carolinas to the mills, and then he received a job up in – you won’t believe this one – Housatonic, Massachusetts. *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Good grief.

*Busby:* It’s on the Housatonic River, and it’s, oh, about, I’d say, ten miles from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and we lived up there a couple of years, and then the mill moved its activities down into Alabama, and –

*[0:28:00]*

*–* we lived in Jacksonville, Alabama where the mill was transferred, the production part of it and the buying of cotton, and then we were out in El Paso for about eight months, I guess, nine months, and Buzz took over the management of the mill down there.

*Bena Cates:* – live in these places and then keep this house all that –

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* – through your travels?

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* Just close it up when you’d go somewhere?

*Busby:* No, my parents –

*[0:29:00]*

*–* daddy retired and moved in here before they – my mother and father moved in here before we left for Massachusetts, and my mother was Sarah Lee Powell, born out at White Station, and her grandfather was the ambassador of the Falkland’s Island, which is at the southern tip of South America.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, yeah.

*Busby:* And in the Smithsonian – now, the why I do not know, but in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington –

*[0:30:00]*

*–* there’s a gold-headed cane that has my great grandfather’s name on it with the immortal no. Now, what he voted against, I have no idea.

*[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* That’s a great story.

*Busby:* Well, it’s for true.

*Bena Cates:* So, your mother lived out there –

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* – with her family when he was with the diplomatic corp.

*Busby:* Well –

*Bena Cates:* How did they end up back in White Station or in this area to live?

*Busby:* Well, I don’t know where he lived, my great-great grandfather, but my grandmother and grandfather, the annex Powell’s –

*[0:31:00]*

lived there, and unfortunately, from what I have been told, my grandfather had a mental condition, and *[Audio skip]* my father tried to give him the medication that the doctors had prescribed.

*Bena Cates:* The ambassador to the foreign –

*Busby:* As I said, I’ve had an interesting life.

*Bena Cates:* Well, when you would travel with your husband and live away from Memphis, in those years when you’d go to North Carolina and then, I presume, one trip – so, one assignment like this came, sort of, right after the other. What were the biggest changes you would notice – you remember thinking when you’d come back from rather a long time away from Memphis –

*[0:32:00]*

*–* back to this house; what struck you –

*Begin Segment 7: [0:32:04]*

*Busby:* I was always grateful to get back. *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* That says a lot. Was it very much the same to you? Some people who lived on Buena Vista said that the thing had – this lady that had lived there for 50 years said the thing that had struck her – I hope we all –

*[Audio skip]* you don’t agree, or you don’t think there’s been a lot of change in the feeling of the neighborhood and the –

*Busby:* No. Of course, possibly – I don’t drive anymore. I use cabs, but I never was a particularly visiting person to the neighbors, unless there was sadness or happiness –

*[0:33:00]*

*–* but they left me alone, and I left them alone. Now, the Landes’ lived next door.

*Pat Faudry:* L-E-N-D-I-S? [sic]

*Busby:* L-A-N-D-E-S.

*Pat Faudry:* D-E-S, oh.

*Busby:* And they had three daughters, all right? One of them is Rosa, Mrs. Borland. Her husband is a doctor here in town, and they have four sons, and Mr. and Mrs. Landes lived there, and then Mr. Landes died, and then I took on – it wasn’t a responsibility.

*[0:34:00]*

It was a pleasure to do it. She lived there for about eight years after he died, and we called them, and – all right. I would chat with her every morning, and she said – would say, “I’m going to take a bath.” I said, “All right. When you get out of the tub, you call me.” Because I had a key to the house that I could’ve gotten in. So, they were very interesting, and then, of course, two houses up, the Crabtree’s lived there.

*[0:35:00]*

He was an attorney here. Mary Bryson has that house now. She lost her husband about six weeks ago. The Crabtree’s lived there.

*Bena Cates:* Well, let me get you back. I said something, I think, that got you off from what I was asking.

*Busby:* I’m sorry.

*Bena Cates:* No, it was my fault, but did you notice – were you aware of dramatic changes in the city at any point when you’d come back from being away? Not really. It was –

*Busby:* No, when – Beale Street.

*Bena Cates:* What about it?

*Busby:* *[Laughter]* Oh, let’s see. Buzz has been dead ten and a half years, and about –

*[0:36:00]*

– I guess it was 13 years ago we drove – well, I did most of the driving. Oh, I did all of the driving from here to California, from here to Canada. We drove up to Cincinnati and took the boat there, and it – the boat went down, and we came down the Ohio and the locks, I had never seen locks before, but it was fascinating to see the gates closed and the ship rise, and we stopped in Memphis, the boat did –

*[0:37:00]*

– and there were four people aboard from Iowa, and they wanted to see Beale Street. Well, of course, at that time it was being demolished. So, I suggested if they wanted to see it, there was really nothing there to see except debris, but they got a cab ‘cause I would not have walked on Beale Street.

*Begin Segment 8: [0:37:38]*

Oh, we used to go there for – I believe it was on a Thursday night when they had a midnight performance at the black theater, Beale Street Theater. I mean, they would allow whites in.

*[0:38:00]*

*Bena Cates:* What was the performance?

*Busby:* It was their regular performance, singing, dancing, things like that.

*Bena Cates:* I’ll bet it was good.

*Busby:* It was most entertaining.

*Bena Cates:* Were they local people or a circuit?

*Busby:* They were local, local, and then, of course, Kings down on – well, it was south Forth, had the most wonderful barbeque that I have ever tasted, and he had this section for whites, and then a wall with openings, and this section was for the black people.

*[0:39:00]*

At that time we weren’t integrated, *[Laughter]* if that’s the word you want to use. So, I know a great deal.

*Bena Cates:* I’d love to hear about those performance on Beale Street when things were at their –

*Busby:* At their –

*Bena Cates:* – height.

*Busby:* – height.

*Bena Cates:* Right.

*Busby:* Of course, we heard Handy down there, and you know how many years ago that’s been.

*Bena Cates:* No, I don’t know when that would be.

*Busby: [Laughter]* Quite a number of years, but –

*Bena Cates:* Were those audiences integrated then, if you went to the –

*Busby:* Yes, yes.

*Bena Cates:* The blacks and whites attended together.

*Busby:* Yes, but the majority of them were white that went there.

*Bena Cates:* But the entertainers were all black.

*Busby:* Right, yeah.

*[0:40:00]*

*Bena Cates:* Was it a common thing for you and your neighbors to do or would typical people living in this neighborhood to go down there, or was it rather daring of you and your husband to go?

*Busby:* We had police protection.

*Bena Cates:* Not just everybody would –

*Busby:* No, no one else in the neighborhood.

*Bena Cates:* Huh.

*Busby:* That I know of.

*Bena Cates:* Ever went down there.

*Busby:* People who lived in Morningside Park, yes. We would get up at Forest and go to there after we’d left the Peabody, the Skyway or whatever you want to call it.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, huh.

*Busby:* We were night owls.

*[Laughter]*

*Busby:* But –

*[0:41:00]*

*Pat Faudry:* In what way did you have police protection?

*Busby:* I’m not even gonna tell you. *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Oh.

*Busby:* And, of course, I have a certain degree of police protection now. If my back floodlight is out, they do the alley, and if it’s out, they’re gonna come knock on my back door to find out if I’m all right.

*Pat Faudry:* Hm.

*Busby:* And I’ll tell you something interestingly. I think it’s interesting that I did. All right. I’m alone. I have no relatives in Memphis.

*[0:42:00]*

I went down to the police identification department and had my fingerprints made.

*Pat Faudry:* That’s a good idea.

*Busby:* I said I didn’t want to be an unnamed victim of a mugging or something like that because if they mugged me, they would take my purse and my identifications. So, I went down there and had my fingerprints put on the record.

*Pat Faudry:* What a good idea.

*Bena Cates:* Um-hum.

*Begin Segment 9: [0:42:34]*

*Pat Faudry:* So, at least – that’s another question on our thing that we’re interested in is how well do you feel you’re served by the city? Apparently, you feel like you have good police protection.

*Busby:* Yes, I do.

*Pat Faudry:* What about fire, that sort of thing.

*Busby:* I don’t know. I had to use the fire department ambulance –

*[0:43:00]*

*–* three times for my husband to get him to the emergency room, and they were here within – oh, I would say four minutes, and also a squad car to see if the fire department ambulance needed any help or I did.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah, yeah.

*Busby:* And, of course, I have a fire extinguisher here in the house, and I know how to use it.

*Pat Faudry:* Sure, but at least, generally, you feel like the city is looking after you.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* What about streets, do you feel like they repair streets; they take care of streets like they need to in the neighborhood?

*Busby:* No. *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* You feel like they need more work on streets.

*Busby:* Oh, yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum.

*Busby:* Well, after all, the expressways – I believe they called it –

*[0:44:00]*

*–* popcorn concrete that was insufficient to take care of the traffic on them which caused the potholes.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, okay.

*Busby:* But they call it popcorn concrete.

*Pat Faudry:* What about crime in the area, what do you know about crime in this area?

*Busby:* In this area, very little, if any.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay. What about, you know, with the expressway coming through, that controversy with all these houses, did you know people who – you mentioned one person.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* Give us some names of some people who had to move because of their houses being taken.

*[0:45:00]*

*Busby:* The Allison’s, Grandville Allison. He lives over on Poplar now. They lived on Galloway. They had a duplex there, and that was demolished.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Busby:* Which I think is the most disgusting thing. A friend of mine, he and his wife – well, let me see. He said, “Virginia, what are you going to do if that expressway comes down the Parkway?” I said, “Don’t worry; I won’t be alive at that time.” *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* When they finally make that decision –

*[0:46:00]*

*–* is that what you mean?

*Busby:* Hm?

*Pat Faudry:* When they finally make that decision; is that what you mean? Yeah, it’ll take forever, yeah.

*Busby:* Well, it’s taken over 20 years to try to get it through the park, and these environmentalists just irritate the hell out of me, excuse my French or whatever, but they just irritate the soul out of me. What – all right. So, we have animals in the zoo. So what?

*Pat Faudry:* Do you feel like that they have just goofed? That they should’ve gone ahead and brought the parkway through – I mean, the freeway –

*Busby:* No, no, um-hum.

*Pat Faudry:* – the freeway through that park area.

*Busby:* Because –

*Pat Faudry:* They cleared it, so they should’ve used it.

*Busby:* And so many homes were torn down there. Now, what price they got for those homes –

*[0:47:00]*

*–* I do not know.

*Pat Faudry:* Yeah, but you feel like that they just goofed. They’ve got it at both ends so they should continue it and get it on through there.

*Busby:* Yes, I do. After all, you can’t have a cigarette and not light it. *[Laughter]*

*Pat Faudry:* Hm, okay. Yeah.

*Busby:* So –

*Bena Cates:* What do you think the land might be used for if they never put the expressway through?

*Busby:* Well, that depends upon the city because the city purchased it for the expressway. So, I have no idea.

*Pat Faudry:* Hm.

*Busby:* All right. What’s the point of building the high rise on that property when it may be torn down in a couple of years?

*[0:48:00]*

I have no idea what purpose they may use it for.

*Begin Segment 10: [0:48:13]*

*Pat Faudry:* Can you remember when your father was building this house, were utilities here and everything? There was electricity was here. Water was here –

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* – from the very beginning, okay. So, that was – your question of coming back, there would not have been any difference along that line.

*Busby:* No.

*Pat Faudry:* Utilities were always here. As far as you know, that was true of the whole neighborhood.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* As the thing developed, it had electricity. It had water.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Pat Faudry:* It had sewers. It had all of this.

*Bena Cates:* Way back you sparked about when you mentioned going to the baseball game.

*Busby:* Um-hum.

*Bena Cates:* We know the story about much earlier, but the zoo was started with a cub –

*[0:49:00]*

*–* a bear that was given by Mr. Caruthers to the baseball team.

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* The baseball team eventually gave it to the – well, put it out in the park, and that was the beginning of the zoo.

*Busby:* Oh, no.

*Bena Cates:* Did you used to go there?

*Busby:* No.

*Bena Cates:* No? Well, how –

*Busby:* I don’t know how the zoo got started. What donations were made of animals, I guess I do not know.

*Bena Cates:* Did you know the Caruthers that live in the neighborhood, Mr. A.B. Caruthers and his son, Louie?

*Busby:* I know Ewing Caruthers.

*Bena Cates:* Ewing is Louie’s brother, I believe.

*Busby:* Is he?

*Bena Cates:* Um-hum. But as a child would you go to the park and –

*Busby:* Yes.

*Bena Cates:* – Brooks and –

*Busby:* Yeah. Of course, Brooks was – I had to train myself –

*[0:50:00]*

*–* on the appreciation of good art, shall I say, and so I didn’t go there as often as I went to the zoo because the zoo was fun. *[Laughter]*

*Bena Cates:* Was it sort of a neighborhood center; did a lot of people go there?

*Busby:* No, a lot of people went there, but they didn’t particularly come from the neighborhood. So, when you have things that we can enjoy and take advantage of, there’s so many times we do not.

*Pat Faudry:* Um-hum.

*Busby:* We want to enjoy, I guess –

*[0:51:00]*

*–* and appreciate and discipline ourselves to that fact.

*Pat Faudry:* What do you remember about businesses in the neighborhood? As a child, would you go to somebody’s store and buy candy or something?

*Busby:* Yes, there was this –

*Pat Faudry:* Where would you go?

*Busby:* Oh, across the street from Snowden, and I believe that was Jeeter, Jester, he’s met his father. He’s married to Lois –

*[052:00]*

– well, I want to say Woods, and that isn’t it. It’s a lumber company – Eason, Lois Eason, and his name was Jeeter Eason.

*Pat Faudry:* Oh, yeah. E-A-S-O-N? Right, and they had a store there on the corner.

*Busby:* Not on the corner, but it was across the street from Snowden.

*Pat Faudry:* So – okay.

*Busby:* So, we’d save our nickels from lunch and go over there and buy some Tootsie Rolls or something like that

*Pat Faudry:* What about south toward Poplar? Do you remember any stores down there?

*Busby:* I beg your pardon.

*Pat Faudry:* What about south toward Poplar? Do you remember any stores down through there?

*[0:*53:00]

Down through this neighborhood.

*Busby:* No. There were none.

*Pat Faudry:* Okay.

*Busby:* The first thing you hit was Drake’s Cleaners there at Poplar and Evergreen and I forgot the name of the drug store that was on the opposite corner.

*Pat Faudry:* Crook’s?

*Busby:* Huh?

*Pat Faudry:* Crook.

*Busby:* No. And then, west on Poplar, just off of Evergreen, was Henry’s, which had excellent barbeque. But it was a joint. Of course that’s gone now. Oh well, everything changes and I do too.

*Pat Faudry:* That’s true.

[End of Audio]