



2007 Sesquicentennial Oral Interview

Harriet Lucille Schubert Banks

CH: This is Cindy Higgins and today is July 10th. I am here with Harriet Banks. We're just talking. She used to live at 1023 Elm and her father was Carl Schubert [a funeral parlor operator]. And what was your mother's maiden name?

HB: Rose
Wilhelmina
Krueger.

CH: Rose
Wilhelmina
Krueger. Your
father Carl built
the house here at
1023 Elm. And
who were your neighbors?



HB: The neighbor on the corner was - there wasn't any house right here [to west, 1029 Elm - was Dr. C.B. Johnson, and he had adopted girls. I know when my oldest son was born, he told me not to rock him. I said, "You rock your daughter." "Do as I say, not as I do," he said. [Laughter] On the other side of the street, were the Corys. They were the bankers. The excitement for the evening, the Corys and the Johnsons would come down here, and my dad had a side yard, I don't know if there is any side yard anymore or not. They set up a croquet set. Us kids would look out the window up there and watch them. We were little kids when we lived here. I was only in third or fourth grade when we left Eudora. Because Dr. Johnson said, "Carl, you make your bodies look so good you should move to Lawrence where you would have more business, and people can see your restorations." I remember one little girl that fell off, see some of these farmers had to haul water. She fell off the water truck and her daddy ran over her with the wheel. They belonged to the St. Paul's Lutheran church here. My dad said, "We'll

just fix it so people don't have get up and to look too close," then close the casket. He had her fixed up, so all he did was put a veil over her little casket so he could have a viewing. He didn't think it was right [to have a closed casket viewing]. He was good at restoration.

CH: If your father learned the trade from his father, and that was Will Schubert, and Will had a barber shop and furniture, did your dad also have that?

HB: Yes

CH: Or he just did the undertaking?

HB: No. After we moved to Lawrence, my dad would let me drive from one railroad track to the other. I was just a little girl, I think about 11. And he would let me drive from the railroad track in Lawrence to the railroad track in Eudora. I would sit between his legs and drive the car. And we'd come down every Saturday to barber.

CH: Visit relatives?

HB: Uh huh. He would barber. He always said the women were the ruination of the barber shop. Sometimes women like Mrs. Hughes used to come down to Eudora and he would cut her hair. Even when he quit coming down so much, she would come to Lawrence, and he would sit her in the morgue.

CH: And just do her hair there.

HB: And cut her hair.

CH: So, when he was growing up with his brothers and sisters, they lived above the store there on Main Street.

HB: My grandmother and grandfather lived in the middle apartment. Then I had an uncle that never seemed to keep a job very well, that was Uncle Edwin. They fixed an apartment on the back. Later on, Aunt Henny [Henrietta Schubert Fuller] had the front bedroom. She had a pretty good-sized closet. She kept a few things to nibble on in her little kitchen, she said.

CH: You remember what it looked like?

HB: Oh, sure.

CH: Was it considered small or spacious?

HB: Pretty spacious rooms. In fact my grandmother [Lydia Anna Breithaupt Schubert] died up there. She got hit by a car by a man by the name of Banta. She was crossing the street and he hit her. Really, I believe that was about 1926 [April 12, 1924].

CH: When they their house had to go up and down the stairs.

HB: Oh, yes, because the downstairs was the furniture store. Do you remember what type of furniture they sold there?

HB: Mostly oak.

CH: Really. Wood furniture.

HB: It was before the days of much upholstery furniture.

CH: He didn't make any of that furniture, right?

HB: No.

CH: Okay, so why did your grandfather get into that kind of business? Was it because he was a carpenter?

HB: You know, I don't really know.

CH: He came over from Germany.

HB: Yes. Maneken, Germany. In fact, I guess it would be my second cousin, it's my Uncle George's son who lives in Houston is doing a biography on the Schubert side. We already got the Breithaupt side. But he is doing it on the Schubert side. He's finally got some interesting things.

CH: I bet. And, so if you moved from here when you were in third grade, did you walk to the school on Church Street then?

HB: I started to the big school down at the corner. And, I was going to go up the stairs and a great big bully said, "You little ones go to the bottom."

CH: So, what did you do?

HB: But anyway, we played in the basement on bad days. They had toilets down in the basement. I remember it was either brick or cobblestone floor. We played inside down there on bad days. We always ate lunch at school. The lady's name, it's a short name, she lived across the street from where the Dolisis lived. Do you know the Dolisis used to live?

CH: They lived on East Seventh Street, across the street from the present City Hall here?

HB: On the road to cemetery. This cook lived across the street from them. She had a daughter, maybe it will come to me what her name was. She was the

cook at the school. It was always good. Always had lunch at school. I remember my dad used to take me to school on bad days in the hearse.

CH: Otherwise, you walked to school.

HB: Yes.

CH: If you walked to school from here, your house at 1023 Elm, what were things you might have seen? Were there houses? Stores? Pastures?

HB: Oh, yeah. We would go Church Street. The Evangelical Church was there. St. Paul's was on the corner. My uncle George lived on the west side of the street.

CH: West side of Church Street? Elm?

HB: Church Street. Elm, I don't think, this street had a name.

CH: When you lived here was it on the outside of town a bit?

HB: Oh, yeah. Where the Corys lived was about on the end of it. Way out to the curve, was a family by the name of, oh, shoot, she had sisters. She had brothers and they used to tease me because I would be dragging everything I owned out for a weekend. I'd get to spend the night. Haverly is their name. It was on a farm. Of course, I had relatives who lived out that way in Prairie Center. Is there still Prairie Center?

CH: Prairie Center is where the Sunflower Ammunition Plant is. They tore down a lot of the downtown. They made a lot of people move. But they still had the cemetery there.

HB: They had a church and one of my uncles, Uncle Gideon [Breithaupt] lived on this corner, and Uncle Martin [Breithaupt] lived over here.

CH: They told everybody to get out of there, about 10,000 acres.

HB: Is the church still there?

CH: No.

HB: Tore all that down. There was a Sinclair Pumping Station

CH: That's there. That was built in the 1920s.

HB: That's out on this street. Church Street.

CH: Do you remember when they were building it?

HB: Yes. It had something to do with oil. It was a company station.

CH: It is a beautiful building. It's very nice.

HB: Still there?

CH: Still there. And they call the road by it the Pump House Road. It has an official name but that is kinda how it is known.

HB: I was around when they were building that.

CH: What church did you go to?

HB: Well.

CH: Or did you go to church?

HB: I did. All my friends, anybody who was cool went to the Methodist Church. But I had to go to the Evangelical Church.

CH: Salem

HB: Salem. On the east side. I told my mom, you know everybody, all my friends go over there. Right across the street. Like Mary Ann Hughes, she's my cousin. The Marleys. And the Corys.

CH: All went to the Methodist Church.

HB: All went. They had boys.

CH: Who went to Salem?

HB: Me.

CH: Just you. Nobody else.

HB: I am sure there were others but they weren't my friends.

CH: How was your church different from St. Paul's or the Methodist Church? Anyway. Same type service? Sunday School."

HB: No. We didn't do that. They didn't do that hootin', hollering, crying stuff. Of course, I don't think we ate very much. Over at the Methodist Church they had the basement. They had the eating.

CH: They ate downstairs.

HB: Of course, my aunt and the all the Gilmores went there. Anybody who was anybody went there.

CH: But you went to the Evangelical Church.

HB: But I did know some Tornedons that went to St. Pauls. That was a Lutheran. I am Lutheran now.

CH: Who were some other families who went to Salem Church that you remember?

HB: Probably some of my relations. Where the pastor lived was right next door south. Is the Salem Church still there?

CH: Salem Church is still there. They just sold it last year to anybody who wanted it for \$65,000. Some man from DeSoto bought it and they are using it for a daycare place.

HB: Is that right?

CH: They sold the Methodist Church last year, too.

HB: The Methodist Church. Have they done anything to it?

CH: It looks just the same. They sold it to build a church by the highway.

HB: The Methodist Church is moving to the highway.

CH: On K-10, you will see a sign.

HB: Oh, shoot. It won't be the same. Maybe they can get a different pipe organist. Frank Green always wanted them to buy a pipe organ. The Gilmores did buy an organ but it was electronic. He always wanted them to have a pipe organ. He played at my Aunt Henny's funeral. She wanted to sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam."

CH: "Jesus Wants Me as Sunbeam."

HB: That was the song we sang at Aunt Henny's funeral.

CH: You were pretty close to your aunt.

HB: Yes.

CH: She worked down at Kaw Valley Bank forever.

HB: It was Home State Bank then. That was up on the corner. Now it is Kaw Valley Bank.

CH: So, Henrietta did that. I think they have a picture of Henrietta here and some friends. I've got some other pictures of her. [picture shown of four girls in hats]

HB If it was anybody, it was this one right here.

CH: I don't know where they are. It's the Lothholz. They have a bunch of photographs. I took some pictures of those. When you came back to visit on Saturdays, what did you usually do on a typical Saturday in Eudora?

HB: I would go around to every one of the stores. That's how I knew Mr. White [the pharmacist] and everybody. I'd sit at the barber shop some and then I'd go up and down the street. I'd talk.

CH: Was it pretty much hoppin' on Saturday?

HB: Yeah. All the farmers went to town on Saturday.

CH: When you came back that would be the later 20s and 30s?

HB: Yes, the late 20s and early 30s.

CH: Everybody was driving automobiles and nobody would bring a horse and wagon.

HB: Well, my Aunt Mary Ott, I don't know where Aunt Mary lived. Any Otts lived in Eudora?

CH: Yes. They live over that way and over that way.

HB: My aunt Mary and my mother would talk on the phone and if they didn't want us kids to know what they were talking about, they would talk in German. Aunt Mary, Vanderhigh [spelled right?] was her maiden name. You see, these people here, the Germans were invited to come down here and settle in Eudora.

CH: If you were to say your childhood was different from other people's childhood, what were some examples of German culture you might have seen? German language, German food, anything come to mind.

HB: Yes, German food. My dad would put syrup on his cottage cheese. That was German. They called it Schmeear-Kase. They were very clannish people. If they were going have dinner, everyone would be invited. For years, they had the Breithaupt reunion here in Eudora. We knew it would start as soon as Aunt Henrietta died, and it did.

CH: I don't know. I know a lot of times for gatherings like that there is one person who is instrumental so that wouldn't be surprising.

HB: Aunt Henny did it. She always had it at the Methodist Church, of course. It was always very nice. I remember one, that was after Frank [Banks] and I moved to Wichita. I came back for the reunion and I said, I can't see my sister [Dorothy May Schubert Green]. So, I said, there she is. I said that's not my sister. She had dyed her hair.

CH: What color?

HB: It was platinum. It was very, very interesting. She still does something to her hair. Her daughter is a beautician.

CH: There you go. The barber-beautician trait— did it carry on?

HB: My brother did it. Then he went to KU. Did I tell you he was the valedictorian of his class?

CH: I am very impressed.

HB: The night of graduation they had to go find him. He and Billy Dolisi were out together.

CH: Bad boys.

HB: Bad boys. But he was a good looking guy. I've got their year book. His son sent me, he said, "I have two," and gave me the one. LaVerne went on to KU and then he got married and then he moved to Topeka and they had this little boy and the little boy is 81 years old.

CH: This is your brother LaVerne's?

HB: Yes. He's 11 years older than I.

CH: In terms of your aunts and uncles, and brothers and sisters, how many of them live in the Eudora area now?

HB: Now?

CH: Now.

HB: Uncle Paul [Paul Schubert] lives in California. Uncle Edmond is dead. Uncle George is dead. Aunt Henny [Henrietta Schubert Fuller] is dead. Aunt Alma is dead. Nobody.

CH: Nobody still lives in the Eudora area.

HB: My sister [Dorothy May Schubert Green] would be the closest one and she lives in Lawrence. I think she is the last of the bunch.

CH: If you look at the Germans who came to Eudora and settled here, a lot of times, some people stayed, say the one who came in the 1860s, '70s, '80s, several of them took off for Lawrence like your dad. I think it was to explore more business opportunities. What was the attitude of your dad when he moved to Lawrence? He did it because he was hoping to expand his business, you think? Did other people think that way? Like "Eudora is too small, I've got to go"?

HB: Yeah. It proved to be not, well, I don't know whether it was a good move or not. Things were against him. He went to Lawrence and bought a house and couldn't get it zoned for a funeral home. The people across the street, their name was Metzger and he worked for the organ company, can you imagine, and he couldn't stand church music. My dad had to get rid of that house and then we rented a house at 1020 New Hampshire owned by Mrs. CJ Erikson and we were there till he got out of the business, paying rent every month.

CH: Your dad got out of the funeral business and he sold to Warren McElwain or some version of that.

HB: Yeah. Of course, he still had the Eudora business. My dad had a lot of funerals, I don't think there wasn't anybody in Eudora that my dad didn't bury.

CH: Oh.

HB: Oh, sure. The Eudora people were always faithful to my dad.

CH: He had people coming to Eudora.

HB: Oh, sure.

CH: I know Warren McElwain and they say when the Schuberts moved there, the Eudorans always go to Warren McElwain, and they opened up their funeral chapel □

HB: That's right. And it's a lovely place.

CH: They stayed true to that. Your dad gave them the Eudora business. Did your dad stay in the funeral business?

HB: When he got too old, he came to Oklahoma City to live with us. Frank was at the time with the Wilber [spelling?] burial vault business and my dad would ride around to different funeral homes and Frank called on funeral directors. I remember one time he went to a place in Tulsa, a big place, Frank always saw that Dad was comfortable. He had a place at the back of the chapel where he sat. Pretty soon, I guess it was an hour later, somebody came in and said, "Mr. Schubert, the funeral is over." My dad said, "I don't give a damn." He wasn't there for a funeral. He was there to take a nap.

CH: His spot there. You said how funeral directors used to dress with cutaway coats and tall hats. Can you describe a little bit about how they dressed and how a funeral might have been back in the 20s?

HB: They would, of course, have places roped off for the funeral cars and for the family. And, they used to take them out to the homes for viewing and they would have what they called a cooling board. Sometimes they would even embalm them at the farm.

CH: In somebody's house.

HB: If people didn't want them to be left alone. My dad had a certain amount of equipment he could take and put them on what they call a cooling board. After he got them embalmed, he would dress them and cover them with a blanket or cloth or drape or something. Then he'd leave them there till the funeral.

CH: Was that common? Was that unusual?

HB: That's what they used to do.

CH: That's what people did.

HB: Yeah.

CH: Was it people on the farm?

HB: Farm, farm.

CH: Or in town

HB: Farm. Usually on the farm.

CH: Kinda a farm thing.

HB: You see, the farmers could hardly wait till they could be retirement age and they would go to town and die. That's what my dad always said. My dad said you have to have something to retire to.

CH: You just can't quit.

HB: You just can't quit working hard all day long and sit. They'd get a rocking chair. I remember another thing he had to do sometimes. These farmers would lose their mind over a bad crop. And, I remember Henry Westerhouse had to be taken to Topeka. And, my dad had to take him.

CH: He lived over there in Weaver.

HB: Yes, Weaver Bottoms. Henry Westerhouse. He lost his mind. He had potatoes. So, my dad would go over there to see him every once in awhile because he and my dad were good friends. Henry backed him in a corner, and said, "Carl Schubert, you are going to take me out of there." It scared my dad. Henry backed him up with a chair. [Dad said,]'ll think maybe I'd better go see Henry."

CH: Did Henry hurt his wife? He had a razor? I think I remember reading about Henry not being right in the head there.

HB: That would have been a long, long, long time ago.

CH: Do you remember the farmers and the kind of crops that they grew? Did they bring it into town and sell it?

HB: They'd bring eggs into town. I remember them carting eggs. They'd look at them through a –

CH: Candling.

HB: A light or candling. Then they'd trade whatever they got for the eggs for groceries that they didn't have like flour. They'd have flour in flour sacks and sugar. Then they'd take it home. The women would sit around at the fabric department in the one that was on the east side of the street. And the men would sit around the potbelly stove. There were two rooms, fabric and groceries. They had a potbelly stove, the men would sit around the potbelly stove.

CH: A couple of hours there?

HB: Oh, yeah. That was the thing to do. Go to town on Saturday.

CH: What was your favorite store?

HB: Oh, I think that merchandise store on the east side of the street.

CH: Did you sit by the fabric or move around?

HB: I'd go around.

CH: When you came back to the CPA festival after you left, could you kinda talk about things you liked.

HB: Oh, yeah. I told you about the poem. *[July 2007 email: I remember going to them every year. I think the last one I attended was the year my oldest was about one year old. As a young girl, I would get to go. One time I was talking to one of the carnival ride operators and he said this to me: "I asked my mother for fifteen cents to watch the elephants jump the fence. He jumped so high he reached the sky and didn't come down until the Fourth of July." Funny, what we remember—all of 80 years ago.]*

CH: The "jump the fence." What kind of rides did they have or music?

HB: They weren't anything spectacular. Back then, they didn't have the knowledge. It was just little kiddie rides going round in a circle. Like a merry-go-round. And they would have ring tosses. Then, the dance would be up in that pavilion

CH: By the gazebo.

HB: They had a little orchestra. Uncle Jack [Hughes] was quite a dancer. Aunt Alma didn't do much dancing. But Uncle Jack did and Delbert Adams.

CH: How many CPAs did you go to?

HB: Oh, that was the thing to do every year.

CH: Pretty much every year you were there.

HB: Yeah, every year. In fact, Dorothy [May Schubert Green] met her husband at the CPA hospital. He was standing by a tree in a white suit.

CH: That's a picture.

HB: That's how they were attracted to each other.

CH: Was downtown closed during CPA or all the stores were open?

HB: Oh, now that I can't tell you. I was so interested in going to CPA that I wasn't paying attention to stores.

CH: Did they serve food?

HB: You had to buy your food there. I remember the first one I went to after I got married, well, no it wasn't the first one, after I had children, I took Roger, my oldest son to the CPA picnic. They had tents set up with boards along the edge by the tables.

CH: The tents and the tables. Was there always a certain contest they had that you participated in?

HB: Well, they had food.

CH: You participated in food eating.

HB: They had lots of food. They had cakes and pies. You mentioned the Holy Family—I remember one time there was a little scandal at Holy Family. They had to have a handwriting expert called in

CH: Cause somebody wrote on a wall or?

HB: I don't know. It was a paper they had. I used to go to school with the business college in Lawrence. Mr. Quakenbush, I think it was, was a handwriting expert.

CH: Did they ever figure out the mystery at Holy Family with the handwriting

HB: I guess they got if figured out.

CH: You think so

HB: Yeah.

CH: And did it seem you went to Salem and a lot of people went to the Methodist Church when you were growing up, that most people were one religion? Or everybody was different?

HB: Everybody went someplace. That was the thing to do. Even the Papenhausens but I don't remember what church Papenhausens went to. Papenhausens lived right down — is there a house right over there on the other side of the [Kerr] field? Is there still a little house?

CH: It might be gone.

HB: That's where the Papenhausens lived. They had a bunch of boys. One of them wet the bed.

CH: Tattletale.

HB: I remember that.

CH: Sometimes people say Holy Family has an awfully big attendance; they say Eudora is a German Catholic town. You would say "not necessarily" because everybody went to different churches.

HB: Yeah.

CH: Did you go down to the Wakarusa River or Kansas River to do things or was that off limits? Or not of interest?

HB: I remember going across the river bridge that had the boards that clack, clack, clack, all the way across.

CH: Was it scary?

HB: Yeah. Did they ever fix that bridge?

CH: Clickety clack.

HB: Not the Wakarusa. The other one.

CH: Kansas River. I think those gotten taken out in floods. Now it is concrete.

HB: Clickety clack. They had a train that used to come.

CH: But you never took the train to Lawrence because you could drive the car.

HB: I always came down with my dad. My dad would send us girls to Linwood every once in a while on the train.

CH: Why did you go to Linwood?

HB: To get a burial policy, burial permit signed by the doctor.

CH: Because the doctor was in Linwood.

HB: We would go over there, and he'd give us each a nickel. Three little girls [Harriet, Dorothy, and Carlene Schubert] he put on a train and take it to Linwood. Can you imagine anybody nowadays doing that? They wouldn't think about doing that. There was a man who had a grocery store over there. We'd go down and get the burial [permit] or the doctor to sign death [certificate] , there would be poppies. I would say: "Oh, you can't walk on that side of the street. We have to walk on the other side of the street. Because you get dope from poppies."

CH: So you made sure our sisters didn't smell the dope.

HB: Yes. We went on the other side of the street. And, then there was Mr. □ I don't know what his name is, started with a B. he had a grocery store. I said, "How many black Boston beans, you know that was a candy. Boston beans. Can you get for a nickel?" He said: "Enough to give a you belly ache."

CH: You said: "I'll take them!"

HB: One time we were standing on the wrong side of the track and the train went off without us. You had to be on the right side.

CH: Right side versus the left side.

HB: It was a train that ran from Lawrence to Kansas City.

CH: You didn't go to many funerals, did you?

HB: I would sit in the funeral home and play the piano and sing. If it were a young person, I would sing a lot. My dad had always told us: "It's not the dead ones who are going to hurt you. They're not going to hurt you." So, I would sit there and sing and play the piano.

CH: Who'd you learn to play the piano from?

HB: A teacher who lived in the south part of Lawrence. It cost me five cents.

CH: For your piano lesson.

HB: I play now only for my own amusement. In later years, I did take a few lessons. I had fooled around the organ so much; I knew you don't lift your fingers like you do on a piano. So I had lost the piano touch.

CH: Because you had the organ touch.

HB: I had the organ touch.

CH: When you come back to Eudora, just driving through, what strikes you about changes? You are in a good position to see the changes in Eudora. What you remember? Seeing it maybe once a year, every couple of years.

HB: Downtown hasn't changed.

CH: Downtown is the same.

HB: The same. But you get out, all this new stuff. We drove by Sonic. We never had Sonic. I don't know what was there, plowed ground, I guess. It's very interesting, even the cemetery is changed.

CH: How's it changed?

HB: It's pretty well kept up.

CH: It was kinda ratty looking for awhile?

HB: Yeah. I think they have new people.

CH: When the cemetery looked bad, was it because of the road, plantings?

HB: It wasn't easy to get to. You had big ditches all around.

CH: My Aunt Henrietta was buried out there. Uncle Steve [Clarence Fuller]. Most of the rest of them were buried at was it Oak Park? Rose Hill?

HB: Over in Lawrence.

CH: In Lawrence.

CH: Wasn't there a time people didn't want to be buried in Eudora? They thought it would be better to be buried in Lawrence.

HB: There's two cemeteries in Lawrence. Three. There's the Catholic Cemetery, the old cemetery, then Memorial Park. My parents are buried in Memorial Park. The Gilmores and the Hughes are in the old one. I often wonder who lives in the old Gilmore place out there? Beautiful old house.

CH: 15th Street.

HB: It is on old 15 highway, 15th street.

CH: Is it brick?

HB: No, that's where Uncle Jack lived. The red brick. That's where the Pendletons live. The Gilmores lived on the other side of the street more toward Eudora.

CH: I think they used that house, the outside of it, for a movie that was on TV. Because they thought it was real pretty, the outside. It was a story about Helen Keller.

HB: It was a beautiful old home.

CH: It's very big, spacious. You were saying when you looked at this house, that Dr. Johnson and Mr. Cory were the influential citizens of the town.

HB: Oh, yeah.

CH: So, if you were to say, who the important people of Eudora were, who would you say some of those standout people were?

HB: Well, Trefz were. And, of course, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Cory, Mr. Hoover—well Mr. Hoover came later.

CH: Kelvin.

HB: Because Kelvin, I don't know what year he came into the banking business. It wasn't a long, long time ago.

CH: I think it was the 40s.

HB: Uh huh. He wasn't in it when Aunt Henny first was in it. Mr. Cory was. Then, well, there was Mr. — hardware man— Mr. Fuller. C.S. Fuller. Then there was a man who had the picture show. He was up above—

CH: Victory Theater?

HB: Up above the bank.

CH: The Lothholzes. The Opera House?

HB: Yeah. He never could find his glasses and they would be on the top of his head. That was interesting.

CH: Of the Germans who actually came and settled here in 1857, did you ever know of any of their families? Some of those were the Durrs, the Lothholzes.

HB: I knew the Lothholzes.

CH: Right now they are building a statue of Paschal Fish. That's the Indian who got the land from the government and then he sold it to the Germans who wanted to settle here. What do you remember hearing about Paschal Fish?

HB: He had a daughter named Eudora.

CH: That's right.

HB: That's how the town was named, after Eudora.

CH: Anything else you remember hearing about Paschal Fish or Eudora Fish?

HB: No, but I have the pot they cooked soap in.

CH: You are saying you have a kettle that the Fish family made soap in. How'd you get that?

HB: Aunt Henrietta had it in her yard and I just took it.

CH: Of course.

HB: I have it in my yard in Oklahoma City. I don't know what I will do with it.

CH: Did you ever hear where Paschal Fish had his hotel or house where it was located at.

HB: No.

CH: Hear mention of that?

HB: Does the name Smike mean anything to you?

CH: Smike had a place downtown.

HB: Yes, he did.

CH: A confectionary place by the Lotz family,

HB: On one side they had lots of ice cream tables, the other side, I think, it was a soda fountain. Mr. Smike got a girl in trouble. She didn't want anybody to know about. So, she strapped herself in real good. That child was born not right.

CH: That's a horrible story.

HB: What's her name?

CH: Some people, they go: "Oh, Charles Pilla was the most important person in Eudora." He just had a big store. Do you remember hearing about Charles Pilla very much?

HB: Oh, sure.

CH: And Molvie, there's a picture there. [Picture shown]

HB: Sure, I remember Molvie Pilla. They had a big house down toward the railroad station on the east side of the street.

CH: He died before your time. Did you ever know any of his kids?

HB: No. I know I heard them talk about Molvie Pilla.

CH: She lived there by herself.

HB: Haelsing. Jesse Marley. [picking up on "influential" Eudorans]

CH: And, then, I have a picture here of the Fuller home. Aren't you related to the Fullers?

HB: Oh, yeah.

CH: Do you recognize any of those people?

HB: I bet one of them is C.S.

CH: He had the hardware store.

HB: Across from the bank.

CH: What kind of things were in there?

HB: Harnesses.

CH: Lot of harnesses.

HB: Yeah. In later years, Uncle Steve, as they called him, Clarence is his name, sold hardware, traveling salesman stuff.

CH: What was his last name?

HB: Fuller. Clarence Fuller. And he married Aunt Henrietta. They went together for 50 years.

CH: Before they got married.

HB: He said he didn't want to get married till his mother died.

CH: Did she like that?

HB: No. People in town didn't like it. She was a good church goer and good church supporter.

CH: Here's a picture of the Lavo Building. That was by your dad's building. I mean your grandfather's. What were the buildings near your grandfather's place?

HB: This was not blue. [Referral to present Jamine's restaurant building]

CH: But it was there.

HB: It was there. It was a barber shop and had a barber pole in front. In fact, I think there were two barber shops. One on one side of the street and the other.

CH: People in Eudora needed their hair cut.

HB: My dad had a clock on the wall. One of those old clocks, and my brother used to say that that clock would put him to sleep. My dad would take him to the barber shop where he worked.

CH: It hypnotized him.

HB: He gave that clock to my nephew. He still has it. When you went up the stairs, the bathroom was in the hall.

CH: Just in the hallway.

HB: Yeah. That was the only bathroom they had. It was in the hallway and everybody used it.

CH: But it had a room around it or it was just in the hallway?

HB: It had a door on it. My Aunt Henny lived in one of the front rooms; Grandpa and Grandma lived in the middle one. Uncle Edwin and his wife lived in the back.

CH: What happened to the building when your family sold it?

HB: It was a skating rink where the furniture used to be down on this floor - a skating rink. I never was very athletic. So, we went down there skating. To get me up, they pulled me. I'd get splinters in my bottom.

CH: Did the skating rink last very long?

HB: No. I don't know what is there now.

CH: I think it is plumbing store.

HB: Then, the barber shop is still there. I don't think it was blue.

CH: Do you have any furniture from the furniture store?

HB: I have a bed, and a dresser that I gave to one of my granddaughters. I had a dresser and a highboy and a bed. And, the bed was one of these tall ones. Somehow we lost the railings. So, my son-in-law kinda nigger-rigged one.

CH: If you think the town stayed the same, how would you describe Eudora to people in Oklahoma or Lawrence? If they said what is Eudora like? How would you describe it?

HB: I never spoke of it in Oklahoma. I imagine a small town of Eudora was about the same as a small town in Oklahoma.

CH: You would say "Eudora was a small town and that's where I was born." Anything makes Eudora different from Baldwin, Linwood?

HB: Linwood and Eudora were comparable. Now, De Soto was bigger, always bigger. The highway went right through the town. Does it still do that?

CH: It goes off more to the side.

HB: I had friends who lived in DeSoto. They were always bigger than Eudora.

CH: You never had much to do with Baldwin?

HB: No. Baldwin Junction, Worden was this way. Now, my relatives lived in Worden.

CH: Evangelicals.

HB: Yes. Evangelicals in Worden. Some of them moved lived right next door to the church there. I would say, "I am going to go out there and preach a sermon." Donald Breithaupt lived out there. Donald, is he still living? He moved to Lawrence and they have a complex out west of Lawrence.

CH: Did you go to Clearfield much?

HB: Yes.

CH: To visit family.

HB: Visit family

CH: Was there anything left in Clearfield, a general store or anything?

HB: I haven't been there in years.

CH: There's that church, the Clearfield Church.

HB: It's still there. When my dad would have a funeral in Clearfield, he would have to reserve the whole church for family because there were big families. So, he had certain people he had to reserve the whole church for the family because there wouldn't be room for anybody else.

CH: Can you remember the biggest funeral that your dad ever had?

HB: It might have been that little girl that got run over.

CH: Any other big ones come to mind?

HB: They were all big back then.

CH: People came out for funerals.

HB: Yes. That was before the start of the funeral homes. Down in Eudora, like I told you. Their viewings were usually at home. The wakes, I don't know if they have wakes anymore or not.

CH: Wakes where you stayed up all night long. Was that a Catholic tradition or a lot did it?

HB: Catholics had the wakes. They lay the people on these cooling boards and had everything at the house for the viewing.

CH: How did people treat you since your dad was the funeral director? Did anybody ever make comments?

HB: Oh, probably.

CH: Not a big deal.

HB: No. In some ways, I wish Dad would have stayed in Eudora. I think I would have had a more interesting life. In Eudora, I probably would have been somebody. In Lawrence, I wasn't because there were other people up there like Tillie Funk had a daughter. She had more money than I had. Of course, I was never a spendthrift.

CH: How about your mom? How do you think she felt about moving?

HB: My mother was a very plain woman. There's nobody living that knew her now. But they would tell her that Rose Schubert was just a good woman. Very plain. Never was fancy or anything. She always sewed. She made dresses. Back then, women wore dresses that buttoned so that they could breastfeed their children. My mother made a lot of dresses for different women that way. I remember one time she made us girls dresses she called them "go day." They were scraps. And they were shaped like this. [Hand description] Scraps left from other people's dresses. She made them in that room back there [Referral to northwestmost downstairs room at 1023 Elm] but it just seemed bigger. It might have been that small.

CH: There's a lot of stuff in that room right now. It's pretty packed. Did she speak German because her whole family spoke German?

HB: Uh huh. Her dad's name was Krueger. He got killed. Her mother then married a man by the name of Kinley. Dorothy says my dad was in the room when my mother was born. Apparently, Grandma Schubert was a midwife. When Grandma —

CH: She took him along with her.

HB: He came along with her. Dorothy told me that. I am sure it is true. But mother was a tall, plain good woman.

CH: She grew up on a farm?

HB: I don't think so. I think she grew up in town.

CH: Where?

HB: Someplace around here.

CH: There you go.

HB: She was a seamstress.

CH: I am going to conclude our interview here. If Eudora is having its 150th birthday, do you have any birthday wishes for Eudora?

HB: Oh, it's pretty clean. I can't see any places they really need to clean up the litter or anything.

CH: So, you are saying Eudora is looking good.

HB: It's looking really good.

CH: This finishes your interview here. ♥