



2007 Sesquicentennial Oral Interview

Linda McGilvrey Bock

CH: Today is May 4th. This is Cindy Higgins. I am talking with Linda McGilvrey Bock. Linda, we are here at your house right now. Would you call this Fall Leaf? What area do you live in?

LB: I live three miles north of Eudora. For postal reasons, they do call this Fall Leaf. Although I don't feel Eudora or Fall Leaf. I feel I am in the country.

CH: Do you ever go to Linwood much?

LB: I only go to Linwood as a means to go to the airport, which I am at quite often, because one of my passions

CH: You built your house, correct?

LB: Correct. We built the house 20 years ago. We used a local builder. We used Tim Bonebrake. The house is a Victorian in the Queen Anne style. The way that we came about the style of the house is that I was very interested in Victorian houses, and Tim was very willing to work with us and he had never built a Victorian house before. So, I would show him pictures from magazines and try to paint a mental picture for him and come over quite a bit for supervision. And, I got exactly what I wanted.

CH: Well, could you kind of walk through your house and tell us some of your special features.

LB: Right now we are sitting on the wraparound porch. That is very typically Victorian. I have a couple of things that other people don't quite understand. When Tim was building the house, I was telling him how much I enjoyed nature and I am an avid gardener and I had seen some barn swallows out here. He told me if I liked some he could get some to permanently live in the house. So, I have some barn swallows that live in my ceiling lights on the porch. Besides them being very messy and territorial, they are quite fun to watch. It's great fun each year when they come back, the babies come. To hear all the birds in the morning, I don't need an alarm clock out here. Other parts of the house—it has the authentic size windows. Back in the Victorian times, they had much higher ceilings and taller, skinner windows, and I made sure everything was done to scale. The house is painted, which also is a big maintenance chore. But I don't feel siding is very Victorian. Although, the longer I sit here, the more siding looks attractive to me. I have it painted three traditional colors that I did some research on by reading Victorian homes and my readings over the years helped me pick the colors. I



also wanted nature colors and I didn't want it to be stand out with pinks and purples and colors of that nature. It's a two-story structure. The bottom ceilings are 12 foot tall. And the top ceilings are 10 feet tall. I don't know what they did, it is wonderful. It stays really cool in the summer. I rarely turn on my air conditioner before July. It's fairly insulated in the winter time as well. I have a wood burning stove and a traditional fire place in dining room that I am not the best at building fires but I am getting better as the years go by. I do like the smell and sound of a fire in the house. The house again is very traditional. I have a parlor with a parquet wood floor. It has pocket doors, which I waited 20 years to get the right hardware for because I want it to be very ornate and very true to the sense of the house. So, the pocket doors remain without hardware. I have a family room that I have tried to hide everything that looks modern in it. My tv is behind a wardrobe. My stereo system is inside of a buffet because I want everything thing to look like it did at the turn of the century. I find it very relaxing. The kitchen is fairly big. It has custom oak cabinets in it. I have my grandfather's cast iron stove in the kitchen and it burns wood, coal, or gas. I have never used it as a stove or such. I moved out here with my new husband and we planned on having a family and I was afraid the child would burn itself because it sets lower than a traditional stove. So it hides some of my baking goods and the top part has all my incense and candles, which are something that is important to me. I have a little breakfast nook off the side. You can hear the train in the background in this interview. So, I live right by the train tracks and right by the Kansas River. Most of the time.

CH: How many acres?

LB: I have 43 acres out here. I am pretty oblivious to the train but most people that come out can't understand how I can be oblivious because it is rather intrusive. And it occasionally sets my land on fire about one time a year. I understand that Union Pacific doesn't use a spark inhibitor as they are supposed to. The flames fall off of the train and ignite my pasture and I was just out of town in May and came home to find out through my Fall Leaf friends, my church friends, that my land had been on fire again. Luckily, since I do have good friends and we are a close-knit neighborhood, they came over and they assisted the volunteer fire department in getting the fire under control. That's kind of the bad and good of living so close to Eudora because I feel like I am a Eudoran but I can call them and tell them my land is on fire but they are not interested because I am not in their district. Sometimes that gets to be a little bit frustrating. The neighbor and church friend hays it for me to keep it under control. I have brome hay and lots of native woods. I have two or three different types of oaks, I've got sycamore, I've got lots of cedars, redwood, and then, when we moved here we started working with the Lawrence [Douglas County Extension] Department of Agriculture and planted lots of nature bundles that have lilacs, cotoneasters, and a lot of shrubs that are native to this part of the country.

CH: Why did you move to Eudora?

LB: I am a Kansas native. I grew up in Wichita. My ex-husband was from California. I met him when he was in his medical residency in Wichita, and when we decided to get married he told me that he wanted to live somewhere that was a little more interesting than Wichita as far as landscape, history, and opportunities, and activities. He had gone to school with Dr. Ken Holliday's son, David, and David was going into psychiatry. Twenty years ago, Eudora wasn't big enough to support a psychiatrist, so he knew that

David wouldn't be joining his father. So, we came out to meet the Hollidays. When we did, that pretty much sealed the deal for me. I just thought that Ken and Elisabeth were very delightful people. They made us feel very welcome. I was ready to move. And, I've never regretted the move and I've never really pondered going anywhere else since I lived here.

CH: I know that you are active in your church.

LB: Yes.

CH: What church is that?

LB: I go to St. Paul United Church of Christ. I have gone there now for 15 years. I've done a variety of things from being a nurse, I can't really be too committed to something that is weekly as my schedule changes all the time. But over the years I've helped with the food pantry. On my own, I've gone on several missions to supply medical help and assistance to different countries, and I've always gone to my church family and let them know that I was going to be on the road and appealed to them. Many of them have helped me financially or by giving me donations. They really enjoy the stories when I get back home. I feel like they have a family there like I do, because I do share the photos and tell them about everything, the candy, the stickers, the medical supplies, the prayers, the good wishes and how the people respond to their love and good will.

CH: And, so, if you live over here, what are some activities that maybe you've done in Eudora or stores that you have patronized?

LB: Well, I love the scrapbook place. I love Family Memories. The ladies there were very personable. They got my daughter interested in scrapbooking, which is a plus for me because it was something we could do together. I didn't have to encourage here, I just had to say: "I am going to be at scrapbook store if you want to drop by." That was a lot of fun to have that time together and to meet some of the other ladies in Eudora. I've gone to Mad Hatter's a couple of time, and I love Jasmines and have a relationship with the family that runs the restaurant there. Of course, I have to do Casey's and KwikShop because that is my gas stop on the way in to work. And, just from building the house, I met a lot of the people in Eudora, from the plumbing and the electricity. Just all the permits we had to get. I've got to meet a lot of people out here, out by Fall Leaf. I know Shirley Davidson really and Gene Moeser is the one who sold us the land. I pretty much know all the neighbors around here and they know that even though I am not home much and don't speak to them but if they needed something I would be t here in a heartbeat. I like the small town feel of this community.

CH: What changes have you seen since you first came here till now?

LB: The growth is just: I can't believe the growth. I used to feel like we were on the end of the earth. Now there are just so many different buildings that have come up. One of the first things was to see the old grocery store and hardware store move from Main Street further on down to the south, which I don't like. I like the old downtown. I guess change is inevitable so I'll deal with it. And, just the neighborhoods that have come up especially between the schools going south and then the schools going east toward

Kansas City. I really believe in the next 10 to 20 years we will just be one connection from Lawrence clear to Kansas City with all the growth going on.

CH: If this is Eudora's 150th birthday, and you have a wish for Eudora, a gift you would give Eudora, what would be something that you would like to see?

LB: Retain your genuineness. Retain your friendliness. Retain your openness. Change with the future at the same time. Be a place that everybody would want to come and live. Make everyone who comes feel as welcome as I did 20 years ago and still do. Keep an eye on the future. But retain your charm.

CH: Thanks, Linda, very much. This concludes your interview.