

Gerald McMillan

Side 1:

Introduction: I interviewed his mother (Mary Bonnell Honeycutt) first.

[5] Schooling described. First 6 years at Presbyterian Church. Student teachers from the Normal Teachers College were sent in twice a year to practice teaching. Two trained teachers stayed on. He walked down the road. [Miss Taylor, Miss Ballard]

In 7th grade the students met the school bus at the end of the lane. Elementary school in Weaverville. When road paved, bus was able to come closer (His brother Tom died 1943 age 15.) [Tom McMillan]

[33] Home life and family are described. His father died when he was 9 and his grandfather took his place. Tobacco was the main crop but the farm was almost self-sufficient. He sawed wood, chopped, carried water from spring and studied by kerosene lamps.

[75] He went to the farm school in Swannanoa (now 4-year Warren Wilson College) for 1.5 years. Then back to Weaverville. (boarded - school half a day, worked half a day.) Didn't get adequate schooling due to shifts.

[82] In 1942 he joined the Air Force and described the climate shock when he went to Fort Bragg.

[105] Soldiers were dedicated. Felt there was "something to fight for."

[118] In June, 1946, when released he and friends had a "\$52-20 Club" - by signing up every week they could get \$20 for a year. They celebrated.

Describes cars, black chauffeur from Dula Springs Hotel and hanging out in the Casaloma, above the Plaza Theatre, and at the Plantation Club where the service men on R and R would meet and get into fights - crutches and splints. [Casa Loma, Plaza Theater, Plantation Club, Battery Park, Langren Hotel]

[151] Hotels were taken over by the government. Rationing discussed. [Kenilworth Inn, George Vanderbilt, Hasel]

[216] Went to Mars Hill to study to be a writer. Was a day student. Didn't graduate. [Leonard Sluder, Perry Penlan, Hugh Roberts, J.C. Mullan, Bell Shope Jr.]

[250] Met his wife at the Bell Telephone office, married and they moved to Miami. He sold shoes until given a job as copy boy in the Miami News. Wife pregnant. Florida hot. Gave notice to boss and moved back to Asheville. [Mary McMillan, Arnold Reynolds, Jacqueline Snodgrass]

[332] Became assistant to the Society editor assigned to review movies. Newspaper people were famous for drinking, a Ramsey brother died in the office. (This was Claude 9/18/63 - see Xerox) [Asheville Citizen Times, Claude Ramsey, D. Hidden Ramsey, Catherine Ramsey, O. Henry]

[362] Became a photo engraver. Describes apprenticeship and process (not used anymore).

[423] Worked for Mother Earth News in Hendersonville. (a magazine) [Mother Earth News]

[449] On the G.I. Bill he bought a house for \$11,500 in Greenville, South Carolina.

[465] Went to Charlotte, joined the union and was "Diggin' in high cotton." Discusses open and closed shop.

[516] Discusses changes in stores, supermarkets, soda fountains, Green's Drug Store in Palm Beach run by Jews was very popular but Jews were not allowed to live in the area. [Margaret Whitehead]

Side 2:

[4] Continues with Green's Drug Store. Tells about being a free-lance photographer in Fort Lauderdale. Describes camera and working for women bosses - which he liked. [John Kennedy]

[37] Strike in 1957 and the editor of Fort Lauderdale News wanted him to stay but he stayed with the Union and got a job in Columbus, Ohio. [Mr. Beerman]

[60] Prejudice towards blacks in North and South. Attitude towards blacks and Civil Rights demonstrations in 60s discussed.

[77] Outside of a 6-month period in Florida when he leased a photographic department, he has always worked for someone else. Wages discussed. [Margaret Gelder]

[100] The coming presidential election is discussed. [George Bush, Albert Gore]

[107] Feels that everyone deserves an education but that Blacks aren't using it to stay off welfare. A black family lived down the road. He was in Florida during integration. The KKK has "had its fangs pulled" but was very important in Asheville in 1900-1920. [Nate Stewart, KKK]

[179] Intermarriage and way of celebrating the Lord discussed.

[203] His father died early and it is suspected that his death was related to working on a turpentine plantation.

[245] Reviews his work experience. [Dick Marsh, Ed Betts]

[303] His wife (now ill) children and grandchildren live in Florida. He has had a stroke and is staying with his mother. Children visit but can't make the same income in Asheville. [On phone,

in order of birth: Gerald Thomas, Linda Cheryl, Joel Patrick, Michael Douglas, Martin Kevin, Wendy Bonnell]

[344] The Depression didn't affect the country people as much as city people. Companies issued script.

[378] Two unnamed families made corn liquor. He and his cousin ran into a still when squirreling. (He gave me a recipe for home-made wine.)

[453] Oldest son in service trains English soldiers in the Everglades - gave them gator meat. [Tommy McMillan]

[504] Wife had a stroke, will stay in Florida. [Mary McMillan]