

DELMAR (RADIO NICK) NICHOLSON
INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN ANDERSON

Speakers: #1 = Jeanne Yothers
#2 = Martin Anderson
#3 = Mrs. Anderson

NOTE: THE CORRECT SPELLING IS

ANDERSEN

#1: No one individual is as responsible for the growth and development of the Orlando area as Mr. Martin Anderson, former owner and publisher of the Orlando Sentinel and the Orlando Star. He is the man who built Orlando. This interview with Mr. Anderson is being taped March 9, 1975 at his home overlooking Lake Ivanhoe. Also present is his wife. Mrs. Anderson is a former Graeber Barr (?). This is Jeanne Yothers.

GRAEBER

#2:ask me a question?

#1: Yea.....now, Mr. Anderson I know you were born in Greenwood, Mississippi and how old are you now?

#2: Seventy-eight.

#1: Seventy-eight. And you came to Orlando in?

#2: 1933 at the age of 33.....

#1: 193.....

#2: 1931.....

34

#1: '31 at the age of 33. Now what brought you to Orlando?

#2: I needed a job. I had been in Europe about 3 months at the expense of one Charles E. Morse from whom I had been working for 15 or 20 years and...uh...in ord...I was living in the magic valley of Texas down in Harlingen and I liked it very well and..uh..the boys were figuring on running me for mayor of the town.....

#1: Oh, is that right.

#2:And...uh...I didn't want to be mayor but...uh...it was a thrilling thought and very tempting but...uh...when Morse heard about it he decided to come down and talk to me and asked me how I would like to go to Europe. And I said what for. He said well for nothing. Just to go over there...stay a little...few weeks or months and then when you come back...uh...I been buying some newspapers with Gene Pulliam, he said and we have a number of properties to...that need managers and we don't know where we'll send you but...uh...we'll have an opening for you when you do come back. So I went to Europe and had a good time for about 3 months.....

#1: Yea.

SALLY PARSHALL MCKEE

#2:hung around New York waiting for him a couple of weeks...he was in Sicily and I was very anxious to go to work anywhere doing anything because I was very restless after having been off of the copy desk and out of newspapers for so long a time.

#1: Did you ever have any journalism?

#2: No..no only the practical side. I came up in a printing shop as a printer's devil and worked afternoons and always worked free for Thursday night when the paper went to press...the weekly and then all day Saturday. And then.....

#1: You started out with a paper route.....

#2: Started out.....

#1:didn't you long ago?

#2: Started out....started out delivering the morning Memphis Commercial Appeal printed in Memphis which in those days you'd get in the afternoon about 3:30 although Greenwood, Mississippi where I was born and lived was only about a hundred miles from Memphis it took all night and all day for the paper to get that far.

#1: Yea and that...you got \$6.00 a month?

#2: \$6.00 a month for delivering the paper.....

#1: Gosh....

#2:and...and \$6.00 a week for working in the printing office and the Memphis Commercial Appeal now gets to Greenwood, Mississippi at 2:30 in the morning.....

#1: Oh....

#2:according to the publisher who is a friend of Colonel Bradley who lives in Winter Park, he's his cousin, I think.

#1: Yea

#2: And...uh...we were discussing the transportation problems with newspaper one time and he was bragging about how he had improved the situation from the time I was as a boy when the paper got there at 3:00 the next....the day it was printed...3:00 in the afternoon.....

#1: Yea

#2: It now gets there at 1:30 in the morning. But I don't know whether you want to talk about the Memphis Commercial Appeal or not.

#1: No. So then Mr. *Morse* sent you to Orlando?

#2: Yea

#1: Yea....okay...and in 1931 the population of *Orlando* was about what? About 20 or 25 thousand, something like that.

#2: Oh, no. It was less than 10,000.

#1: It was.

#2: It was right after the '20...1925 boom and bust in real estate and then on top of that, of course, in '29 when the stock market crashed all *Orlando* and all of *Florida* had it's second depression.....

#1: Yea

#2:So we were in the second depression. And...uh...course...uh... times were very difficult and...uh...the two newspapers, the evening *Reporter Star* and the *Orlando Sentinel* were merged in order to survive.

#1: Yea. Well, would you describe *Orlando* and your first impressions of the town when you came here. You were 33 years old.

#2: I was 33. In those days they...they...um...the Atlantic Coastline passenger train from New York arrived around 12 or 1:00 in the morning. And we went to the....I was with a man named Allen who had brought me down here who was one of Morse's lieutenants and...uh...we went to the Orange Court Hotel and having slept all the way down...uh...we were not sleepy so we.....

#1: Yea

#2:left our bags and walked up the street from the Orange Court Hotel to...uh...look at the town to see what it looked like. And I remember passing *Dixen-Ives* and *Yewl-Drew* and that was two advertisers that I saw right off the bat.

Dickson - Ives #1: Right in the head.

#2: So..uh..then we walked on and we....I particularly noticed the oak trees growing out of the sidewalks all along the street. Huge oak trees. It was run right...right in front of the *Sentinel*. And then we went on to...uh...*Lake Lucerne* and I thought it was a most beautiful picture I'd ever seen about 2 or 3:00 in the morning. And it was. And you could smell the orange blossoms at that time of the year.....

#1: Yea, yea.

#2:it was March or April and...uh...while I had visited all sorts

of resorts in Europe...uh...because in those days...uh...you could visit Europe for very little money. There was nobody over there. We could go in a hotel over there...there were two couples of us and we'd be...there'd be more waiters than there were customers. So...uh...and I had seen the beautiful spots of Europe and...uh...naturally I compared the lakes of Orlando with the lake country which we'd seen around the Riviera and..uh..around the south of France and...uh...I just thought it was an ideal place.....

#1: To live

#2:to live.

#1: Beautiful. Well, now tell me about your memories of the Brascer (?) ^{Brascer} twins and the marching band.

#2: Well, the Brascer (?) twins were tremendously interested in the boys band which was directed by Mr. Ball who was a very competent man and apparently they had organized the band to interest the boys and use boys to deliver the paper and they had 40 or 50 boys.....

#1: Yea

#2:in this band. And they had some occasion shortly after I'd gotten here and every time they had some sort of a civic affair the band would come out in full regalia and march down Orange Avenue. That wasn't any problem....any traffic problem in those days because there wasn't any traffic and they didn't have any trouble clearing the streets because the streets were clear.

#1: Yea

#2: So the Brascer twins would get on either side of the column and went up Orange Avenue dressed in their pure white uniforms with white hats and white shoes and waving their sticks.....

#1: Oh, how cute.

#2:like pharaohs.

#1: They always did have an infinity for white. Even in.....

#2: They certainly did.

#1:in their latter years they usually wore white shoes.

#2: I remember one time...uh...I asked Brascer...he was getting old....J.C. to...uh...^{I didn't want him to leave the paper....to write a column.} And he said...sure, I'd be glad to write a column. And he said..then he came to me and he said...you know I think ^{I oughta have some sort of}

a mark of distinction or something that would set me aside if I'm gonna be a columnist. I said sure, what'd you want to do? I didn't know whether wanted his picture in the paper with his column or not. And he said...well, you know R.B. and I use to wear white suits and white hats and white shoes. I said.....sure, that's a fine idea.

#1: Is that the reason he was always in white?

#2: So.....

#1: I thought he just didn't have any other suits.

#2: No. So he says....I said....you go ahead and buy you a suit and a hat ...and he said....well, I....I....I can't buy it. You'll have to buy it for me. I said....well, that's....that's all right, I guess. What'll it cost? He said...well, I think I can get one down at Slemmon's for... oh, about \$15 or \$18. I have an old white hat and some white shoes at home. So when he started writing this column he dressed up.

#1: Yea.

#2: Like a circus impresario in that white uniform and walked up and down the street and picked up notes for his column.

#1: Well, tell me some other things about you. How you remember the town. Some of the people you first met.

#2: Well, uh...my introduction to the cultural side of Orlando came on a Sunday afternoon when the crowd gathered at Carl ^{Dawn's} Hillcrest Home to watch ~~N~~ Delmar (Radio Nick) ..Nickelson milk rattlesnakes. ~~Nicholson~~

#1: Oh, no.

#2: Nick's father was the....

#1:cultural

#2:was a distinguished naturalist with many specimens displayed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and he had taught his son the ways of snakes, birds, alligators, and creatures of the swamps and forests. Nick would put on these shows for day nursery benefits. Later on...um...bought the island in Bay Lake. Now owned by Disney.

#1: That's right.

#2: I would fish for bass with him. He always threw his catch back into the lake which added to my responsibility of catching enough food for the evening meal. There was a Whooping Crane on the island where Nick lived and today there are only 47 of these cranes in existence, as I understand it.

#1: They're almost extinct.

#2: They're almost extinct and this crane was a female and one day when we were sitting out on his porch some other Whopping Cranes came by and talked to this female and finally lured her up in the air. And she took off and Nick said...oh, oh, there she goes...never see her again ... laughter ... But she made a circle and turned around and the other cranes jabbered, talked to her, yelled at her but she came back to the island and the other cranes kept going.

#1: Yea

#2: Dewitt Miller was a very colorful citizen. He operated the Wyoming Hotel. As you know it was only opened 3 or 4 months in the winter and it catered to the older, wealthy winter visitors.

#1: Yes, I remember that.

#2: Dewitt furnished many a savory meal for his guests over the Saturday ...Sunday weekend. When he, with friends would board Arthur Butts yacht or boat and fish in Cocoa/Canaveral inlet Thursdays and Fridays. Among the group fishing with Dewitt and Arthur Butt was Judge Wilbur Tildon, D. V.W. Estes (who served one term as mayor), Harry Dixon, ~~Dixie~~, CLARENCE Lanoé Gay, and I.

#1: I'll bet that was fun.

#2: It was fun. It was a delightful trip. And...uh...it took me several weeks to find out why we went so frequentlylaughter..... Every week we would go fishing and...uh...I later discovered that Dewitt was getting all the fish.

#1: Oh!laughter.....

#2: And he would take those fish back to his hotel and serve them on Saturday night and Sunday to his guests.

#1: Oh, my dear.

#2: We slept on the boat. Fished all day. I enjoyed being taken in and accepted by these pillars of power in the community and learned considerably (sic)...considerably about cracker etiquette. For instance it was mine and Judges Tildon's job on the boat after we had brought in the day's catch to polish the brass. This was a tedious and arduous job but I stuck with it. But...uh...Bull....Bull still got all the fish we got...we caught.

#1: That was Mr. Miller's nickname wasn't it?

#2: Bull

#1:Bull

#2: He was known as Bull Miller.

#1:laughter....gosh....

#2: Judge Wilbur Tilden was another colorful character and he and his wife were my friends...our friends. When I moved the newspaper from it's South Orange cubbyhole operation to North Orange in front of Judge Tilden's back yard garden, I expected protest from them over the noise of our presses and all the traffic we created down there. But they never complained. I had gullies cut.....

#1: But they only moved didn't they?laughter.....

#2: Well, they.....

#1: inaudible I know, yea.

#2:stayed there a number of years and we were cramped and when they moved...uh...I told him if he ever wanted to sell, I'd buy him and when they moved he put a price on me...on his house and we accepted it ...we didn't quibble with him. I forgot what the price was, but I assume it was fair. But anyway he had some grandchildren who would come over and visit and I was so afraid that one of our trucks or cars going in and out from our plant to Magnolia would run over one of these children that I had these gullies cut in the paved road.....

#1: I remember those bumps.....

#2:to cut the traffic and then our people complained bitterly about it.....

#1: We used to call them bonus bumps. That was.....

#2:they were bonus bumps.

#1:that was our Christmas bonus.

#2: That's rightlaughter.....

#1: Oh, I remember that, but I never knew why they were really there inaudible

#2: For the children. I had many talks with Judge Tilden over the fence which separated his beautiful garden from our noisy, sometimes, smokey, greasy pressroom. One is significant. He was telling me about the early leaders of the community. A regular routine he would pursue. One of these leaders was Judge Beggs whose son was to later become Postmaster. I got news of Judge Beggs death early in the morning when

I came down....down that day, Judge Tilden said....I was surprised to hear the regular passenger train crossed the tracks along Gertrude Street on its run to the station in the middle of town. I was further surprised when I passed the bank and saw it open as usual. I could not understand this. Such was a power and influence and following...and following of Judge Beggs that when he died I thought the whole world would stop, at least the town. But things went on as usual.

#1: Tell me, when did you...um...acquire the newspaper?

#2: Well, I inquire....I acquired the newspaper twice.

#1: You bought it from Mr. Marsh?

#2: I bought from Mr. Marsh on a very complicated deal and...uh...after operating it for a few years I decided that I never could fan out and...uh...Tommy ... inaudible... who was working for me at the time and who now has become a millionaire several times over with number of newspapers all over the country, told me that...uh...he says even if you paid out you'd...by that time your press would be worn out and you'll have a new press and you won't have any money left to buy the press after paying off Marsh. So I gave the paper back to him, very foolishly. But then later on he and I, together, acquired the Macon, Georgia newspapers on the credit of the Orlando paper and after I had negotiated the deal up there and I got a third of the paper and he got a third and Payton Anderson who lived there, no relation of mine, got a third. And then we operated that paper from 1940 till about 1944...'45 and...uh...I took my third in the Macon paper and gave Marsh a note for a million dollars and bought the Sentinel back.

#1: Yea, yea.

#2: The Sentinel Star back.

#1: And then it was sold in 1965?

#2: Sold in 1965 to the Chicago Tribune.

#1: For \$27 million is that the

#2: \$28 million dollars

#1: \$28 million dollars.

#2: Without the real estate. I kept the building for....the building. I had put in....well I had...my daughters had built the building when they were...before they were 10 years old and naturally when they signed the note for the money to build the building with I had to endorse it.....

#1: Yea.

#2: Which I did, but I saw to it that meanwhile...uh...we had adopted Doris. I induced Marsha to give Doris half of the lot. Which she did. The lot cost \$15,000. And then I cut Doris in on the same financial arrangement for the building fund that I did Marsha and they...they are now getting...they got....when they sold....when I sold the newspaper I had a contract in there where the Tribune Company leased it for 20 years and...uh...that lease has been paying Marsha about \$150,000 a year and Doris about \$115,000 a year. Um...Marsha had some additional land there which she acquired from her mother. I was a trustee for her mother and acquired...uh...she...her mother owned stock in the newspaper. X

#1: Yea

#2: And on the dividends of the stock I made investments for her and one of them was buying stuff around the Sentinel. When I'd run out of my money I'd put her money in there.

#1: Yea

#2: But...uh...they all got it back in the end and they're still getting it back. The contract has about 11 years to run and it's worth \$4 or \$5 million dollars.

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#1:five daily newspapers.....

#2: Five daily newspapers.....

#1:in Orlando.....

#2:in Orlando.....

#1:when you first came here.

#2: *(1931)*in 1933. That's because of the confusion that was aroused by the big rich people coming in, buying out the Sentinel then the Reporter Star. Any...uh...there was the disagreed among the Braseers about the sale and after the combination....the combined papers had been running a few weeks....or a few days rather....uh...the Brascers came over and took all of there linotype machines and moved them back home and started..... Braseers

#1: Yea.

#2:printing their own paper and the Sentinel started printing its paper so there were two papers there. That was three papers see. Then

...uh...they...uh...went to Tom Gurney and said we've got an evening paper here...he was a lawyer...we don't know what to call it. Tom Gurney said....well, the name of the morning paper is the Morning Sentinel. Why don't you call this the Evening Sentinel. And they said alright. This was before my time. A few days before I'd gotten here. So it was the Morning Sentinel and the Evening Sentinel and the evening Reporter Star. And then Joe Ferris, the son of old man Joe South Ferris,.....

#1: Yea

#2:the democratic leader had printer's ink in his blood and he decided he'd start a paper. So that was four papers. And then Tim ^{i t'm} Cobb, who's in the printing business.....

#1: Yea

#2:decided the feel was right so he started the Times, I think... Orlando Times.

#1: Well, it's amazing for a city that.....

#2:City of less.....

#1:small.....

#2:than 10,000, that had 5 daily newspapers.

#1: That's probably more than any city.

#2: All were broke and...uh...when...uh...when I came here there were three managers...three...four managers of the papers and I was just a managing editor. But these four managers...uh...they didn't like the situation. One of the managers was R.B. Braseer and one was Moses ^{Brownsville} Stein from Brownsville and the other one was...uh...Allen from Lorado. And a fellow named Bill Murray whom Pulliam had sent here. And these four people they didn't do any work because there really wasn't much to do. They had more managers than they had reporters.

#1: Yea

#2: But...uh...they had all been sent here through some sort of a...a...you might say...uh...grasp for power or control and they spent all their time squabbling together.....

#1: Yea, I guess so.

#2:and there was nobody to get the paper out except me so I went to work and started getting out the damn paper.

#1: Do you remember what your salary was when you were managing editor?

#2: Oh,...uh...I had been making real money at that time in Texas.

#1: Yea.

#2: I'd been making \$12,000 a year which.....

#1: Oh, that was pretty good.

#2:before the depression was a lot of money, you know.

#1: Yea

#2: But...uh...after the depression hit those salaries....those kind of salaries were not paid. So I asked Morse when he came down here whatwhat about my pay. He didn't say anything about it when I saw him in New York. He said....well, what'll it cost you to live?... And I said....well, I don't know. Maybe \$40 dollars a week. That's your salary, \$40 dollars a week.

#1: Oh, gosh.

#2: So that was it and then I told him that my wife was pregnant...we were gonna to have a baby and...uh...I didn't know whether I could pay for that on the \$40 dollars salary. So he said...well, put it on your expense account.

#1: So Marsha was a.....

#2: Marsha was born on the expense account.....

#1:billlaughter.....

#2:and Dr. Edwards and McKuen had heard about...uh...the expense account item. I think I told them as a joke and they sent me a bill for \$1,500 dollars which I paid....the newspaper paid.

#1: Oh.....

#2: I think it was the highest fee for a child birth....

#1: Well, I guess so.

#2:up to that time in the history of Orlando.

#1: Oh, I think that's cute.

....TAPE STOPPED FOR SOME REASON....

#2:really, I didn't....I never paid much attention to the script until the depression was over and we had discontinued the use of it. Because...uh...you would have to live through a depression like that. It's something like going through a hurricane. People really wouldn't understand how serious it was unless they had been there to witness it. So we ran out of money. Everybody else in Orlando ran out of money and we decided that...uh...we would issue script and we would pay 80 percent of their salaries in real money and 20 percent in script. So we printed this script and passed it out to them and the employees... employees would take this script to their grocery stores and they accepted it. And they'd take to Foul-Drew, Dixon-Ives, other stores and...uh...I was talking to Doc...Doc McKuen the other night and he said....yea, I remember you and that Martin Anderson script.

#1: Yea

#2: I said... well, I'd forgotten all about it. But...uh...it...uh...it really worked and we continued until

#1: It was quite a worthwhile thing at that time.

#2:Well, it kept us alive.

#1: It sure did.

#2: But as I say you could do things like that in those days...uh...because people were surprised to get 80 percent of their money in cash, you know.

#1: Yea, that was a good deal....really was.

#2: And it didn't...uh...handicap them...it didn't cost them anything because they would pass it on to get their groceries....every week.

#1: Well, I know that you've had many major projects that you've seen accomplished and...and so forth. Can you name....most of them were in the road building. Getting a network of roads to converge on Orlando.

#2: Yea, well in those days...uh...the...um...the west Florida politicians, they called them "the pork chop gang", controlled the legislature and...uh...the only way...uh...there was no reasonable fair basis or program for building roads in Florida. If you knew the right guy...if you were for Cohen when he got elected governor you'd get certain roads in your area. If you were not for Cohen and hadn't put up any money and hadn't worked for him you wouldn't get any roads. So...uh...I decided...um...well every newspaper in Florida was doing the same thing ...trying to get roads for their area because there weren't any roads ...but...uh...I just got on the band wagon and used the same practices that were existing at the time and the way to get roads was to elect a governor and I supported some governors that were not too hot. But...

CONE

X

uh...we got...remember we got a road though Bithlo.

#1: Yea, the Bithlo cutoff.

#2: The Bithlo cutoff...which was later named for Campbell Thornell because he was on the highway board when the road was ordered built. But...uh ...this fellow...what the heck was his name...he was a railroad conductor.....

#1: Charlie Johns?

#2: Charlie Johns! He came into my office and he said....I'm Charlie Johns. I'd like for you to support me for governor. And I didn't have anything to lose. I says...well, what are you going to give me? He says...what do you want? And I says....well, we want this road to Bithlo. He says...where....where the heck is Bithlo? I says...well, it's a road going over on the east coast. Well, he says, I guess that's all right.

#1: Wait....but you had the vision to...to realize that the space program was just shaping up and that.....

#2: Well....um.....

#1:was the main reason behind it wasn't it?

#2: It was...that was before the space program, but years before that...uh ...Harry Leu and some of these other people around had been trying to build a road from coast to coast, starting at Cocoa.

#1: Yea, I know, yea.

#2: And going through to Brooksville.

#1: Yea, yea, yea.

#2: And they had an association and we would go around to these towns and hold these meetings. But that was the inception of the Bithlo road....

#1: Yea

#2:of which led up to better roads to Cocoa.

#1: Yea

#2: But that...uh...organization and that idea was here when I came here.....

#1: Yea

#2:and they had been working on it and holding these meetings right here among themselves. But their voice never got out of Orange County
.....

#1: Yea

#2:It was never heard. Never heard in Tallahassee, you know, because Tallahassee...those people up there in west Florida ran it. They wasn't going to give Miami any roads or Orlando any roads, you know.

#1: Yea

#2: So...uh...we had to deal personally with the candidates and we did deal with them. It may be...now if you would do something like that...uh...they would want an investigation.

#1: Yea, probably

#2: Sort of Watergate, you know, this guy Anderson got a road, see. Or Miami Herald got a road.....

#1: Yea

#2:by supporting this governor. But...uh...we just called it...um ...a way to live and a way to get along. We didn't think there was anything wrong in it.

#1: Well, we got I-4 through downtown Orlando. You were influential in that.

#2: Well, along with the.....

#1: I'll always remember that controversy.

#2: Well there.....

#1: There was a real squabble wasn't it?

#2: We were very fortunate. We had...uh...three road members right in a row. Campbell Thornell...and this was also because the newspaper had supported the right candidates, Leroy Collins and Johns and people like that. And...um...Campbell Thornell was the first one and Billy Dial¹ (?) the second one and the third one was Rock Davis.....

R. L. C.

END OF SIDE ONE...TAPE #1

#2:had these three men in a row.....

#1: Yes

#2:on the road board.

#1: You were lucky.

#2: We were very lucky, but we had played our cards well in the early stages of these campaigns before the governor was elected and after the governor got elected why he would appoint these people, see, and we would tell him who to appoint. And, anyway, Billy came down from Tallahassee one day and...uh...he came out here to my house which he would frequently do after quitting time around 6:00 and he said...well, we gonna....we got this proposition to build this road right near Orlando, he said. And it's gonna be an elevated highway like they have in California and all that stuff. And I said....well, Billy what do you mean near Orlando. Well, he says, there's a lake out here that keeps it from coming right through Orlando. Well, I says, you tell them that I'll go along with them if it comes through Orlando.

#1: Is that Lake Ivanhoe?

#2: No, that was the one over there where Bo Randall lived.

#3: It's little Concord.

#1: Concord!

#2: Concord.....

#1: Yea

#2: Lake Concord and they were gonna to put it about 7 or 8 miles distant from Orlando and I figured they'd get on this...the tourist would get on this highway and they would just wave at Orlando and keep going to Miami or Tampa. The bigger towns like they always had done.

#1: Yes, yea.

#2: So I stood out for this...uh...change.

#1: I...I remember that. There was a lot of squabble.

#2: Lot of Squabble.

#1: Meetings of protest.

#2: We had...uh...we had a meeting in the city auditorium.

#1: I remember.

#2: It was full and I was on the platform and Dial was on the platform and there were all sorts of shouts of angry protest and what these people

getting out of this. What's Dial and Anderson gonna make out of this road and...and...uh.....

#1: And now what we do if we didn't have I-4?

#2: Oh, you wouldn't have anything, you know.

#1: And the Lucerne (?) Causeway too.

#2: That's right.

#1: Remember that?

#2: Well, we got that...uh...

#1: ... inaudible ... Concord.

#2: Uh...Billy...uh...Rock Davis built Lucerne Causeway and we supported him. We....um....I....I had noticed in Washington, years ago....you know, when Washington was laid out...a French engineer laid it out for beauty and he had these turns and circles all over the city. Well, about thirty years ago Washington decided they couldn't get anywhere, they were always going around in circles. So they started cutting through these circles and the people raised sand about it but it's now....they are very glad that they did it and we had about the same situation on the Lucerne Causeway.

#1: I remember, I was against it in the column and you.....

#2: Sure.

#1:wrote me a little note to the effect that we could butt out.

#2: Well I...I was the first to admire Lucerne. I didn't want to see the beauty of Lucerne destroyed, but when you got the Lucerne you would have to go this way or that way around the lake, you know, instead of going right through it.

#1: Well, see you farsighted enough to see these things.

#2: Well, I had seen the thing work in Washington which is a much bigger city than Orlando, you know. And they did it up there with all of the protest and wrangling and everything, but they did it.

#1: I don't know what we would do without that causeway.

#2: That's right.

#1: I think there was another controversy when they put this little Lake Ivanhoe cause....bridge across.

#2: Yea....that was...uh....

#1: Wasn't that....or was that before you came here?

#2: No, I remember that, but it wasn't too...uh...general. It was sorta local.

#1: Yea

#2: In this area out here where...uh...George Brass had a house that dead ended and...uh...he...it was a classic place. He was living there. Tranquility and he didn't want a bunch of cars running through his front yard and he was correct.....

#1: Yea

#2:because what's he got now. He's got a bunch of hippies fishing out of his....on his beautiful lawn.....

#1: Yea

#2:see

#1: Well, people always object to change, you know. Well, now let's bring things up to date a bit and tell me about...um...the coming of Disney and part the newspaper played in that, okay? Emery-Bevards (?) scoop in other words.

Emery Bevards

#2: Oh....

#1: You know. Several months....the...there'd been real estate transactions, you know, that we had been.....

#2: Yea.

.....faint voice in background -- unable to hear or understand.....

#2: Um.....

#1: I guess Orlando....the Orlando was the logical place for Disney to come because we had all these roads.

#2: That's what.....

#1: Established in the highway.....

#2:caused Disney to...uh...select Orlando. He was flying over the area and he saw this network of the roads around the town and...uh...he says...this is it. Meanwhile, the people of St. Petersburg had gotten

to Disney before we did. This is something that I don't think it's ever been printed. But...um...they had Disney's people there and entertained them and showed them a beautiful piece of land and water on the Gulf that was owned by the Wright estate. And the only thing wrong with the deal was....that I understand...the Wright people, the trustees...wanted a cut of the Disney proposition...the Disney business. They said...we'll sell you this land but the way we do business down here is that we take a part of everything, you know. Like Mr. Fipps down there in Palm Beach.

#1: Yea, yea.

#2: He built all those buildings and skyscrapers and everything.....

#1: Strings attached, yea.

#2:Investment Trust the steel people, but..uh..Disney didn't like that sort of a proposition so he left St. Pete. Didn't say he was...he wasn't and St. Pete thought they had it in the bag.

#1: I never realized that.

#2: It's never been printed.

#1: Oh, well, good. I'm sure that's good.

#2: So...uh...they came over here and...uh...ran into...uh...Erlow Bronson who sold them 27,000 acres for around \$250.00 an acre.

#1: Now, then, he's from Kissimmee?

#2: He's from Kissimmee. He was the state senator.

#1: That's right, yes.

#2: Uh...and you may gasp and say that Bronson was crazy, but...uh...I happen to know that he wasn't crazy at all, because Funisted (?) was his lawyer and he was also my lawyer and if Funisted (?) told me in the strictest of....strictest of confidence that Erlow had bought most of the land for 10 cents to \$1.00 an acre on a tax deed. And some of the people wondered if it was worth that much because one whale of a lot of it was under water....which it was. So Erlow sold that for about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 and 9/10 percent profit.

#1: um...gosh.

#2: And...uh...when the...when Disney was supposed to be flirting with St. Pete....uh...St. Pete was flirting with Disney, Billy Dial brought the ebullient Roy Hawkins into my office one day and...uh...introduced him along with Paul Helawell, the noted lawyer and...uh...I think a real

FUNIE STEED

estate man. And they announced that they represented the syndicate which was...wanted to bring to Orlando a brand new enterprise. One which they said would change over night the face of the city, the county, and this part of the state.

#1: You can say that again.

#2: So...uh...this was a magic deal which would just turn our town into a tremendous city overnight. But...uh...we had heard that story before. There had been all sorts of promoters. They were coming in and they were going to develop this, that, and the other and they generally wound up selling stock to the people and wanting the land free or wanting concessions from the county and the city and we really were not interested. We were not attracted to this thing and we said that politely because Dial was our friend and listened. And...uh...they left and we forgot about it. But...uh...after a few weeks they came back and...uh...told us that they were making headway and making progress and one of them gave us a little slip of paper which had the name of the...the firms in which they were buying land. Well, then I pulled out my drawer and stuck that little piece of paper in my drawer and I didn't pay any attention to that. I still couldn't understand why people were gonna buy a bunch of land and what the heck were they gonna do with it because they stuck the land...had been here for all these years and the only thing it was good for was raising cattle.

#1: Yea

#2: So...um...I was never excited about Disney. So...um...but they kept coming and...uh...a lot of...lot of my friends like Dudley Wilson...um ...got rid of two tracts of land which cost him about \$200 for a cool \$2 million after Disney got here.

#1: Oh my.

#2: But I never tried to buy any of the Disney land. Not that I was too proud. Frankly, I did not know what to buy. I didn't where the front gate of the Disney property was going to be. If I had I believe I would have bought some land, but I didn't.

#1: Yea

BAVAR

#2: But...um...finally Emily Babar who was editing the Sunday Magazine took a vacation and went to California. And went to Disney World and had the audacity to somehow get into Disney's main office.

#1: Was it a press conference of some sort?

#2: Well, I think it was a press conference, but after the conference she went to Walt Disney and asked him if he was the prospect for the Orlando land purchases. And in a...in a moment where he...when he

wasn't thinking, he said, yes. And, of course, she...either...she wrote the story.

#1: Yes, I remember that.

#2: And they called me about the story and I says...oh, hell, there's nothing to that. Emily Babar has gone nuts. They got her out there and gave her a party and a couple of drinks. She didn't know what they were talking about. They probably gonna make a picture or something, you know.

X
#1: Yea.

#2: But anyway, we printed the story and said this...this is it...Disney is it because at the time....by then it was known that Disney had...that someone had acquired all of this acreage. This swamp land over there in Osceola County and they couldn't figure out what they were gonna do with it. So...um...anyway, Emily got this story.....

#1: She did.

#2: And we stayed with it and then Heilawell and Hawkins, who had promised me that they would warn me in plenty of time to print it before it got out....they forgot all about their promises and...uh...uh...uh...a meeting was set up to announce the new owners of this land and the new project and what it was. And I said...I better get busy. So I called the governor. Um.....

BURNS

#1: Was that Hayden Burrington ... inaudible ...

#2: Hayden Burns from Jacksonville whom I had supported. And I said... Hayden...uh...you coming down here for this big meeting where they're going to announce the owner of this 27,000 acres of land and the new project and who is it? And he said...well, it's Disney, but don't tell anybody I told you. I said...governor, I wouldn't tell a soul, personally.

#1: You'd just print it.

#2: So the next day...um...I wrote that story saying it's Disney, see. So we printed it once and didn't believe it and then we printed it a second time and believed it.

#1: That's when you referred to Emily as a girl reporter.

#2: Girl reporter.....

#1: Yea

#2: Well, I thought that was a.....

#1: That was cute.

#2:good title for her. She's....didn't do any harm.

#1: No, she really didn't. She kinda smoked it out.

#2: Yea.

#1: Have you been down to Disney lately? Do you ever go down there?

#2: Yea, we've been several times. The only thing wrong with the Disney, you know, are the crowds.

#1: Oh, I know it, yea.

#2: If you could go down there when you wouldn't have to stand in line an hour.

#1: Yea

#2: But we were out to the Buena Vista Cafe or Restaurant the other day and had a fine lunch and I understand.....

#1: Yea, that's good.

#2:at night they have continental food and...and it's a very, very great addition to the city.

#1: Yea.

#2: But...um...naturally going to Disney is like going to a circus and after you've gone once or twice through those crowds you just don't care for it.

#1: Well, I know you've had many great honors. Can you single out the... those that meant the most to you. Maybe your high school diploma or your.....

#2: No, I didn't pay any attention to that.

#1: Really?

#2: No. You mean the diploma I got at age 65 or something.

#1: Yes

#2: They had a reunion over there in Mississippi and I went over to the reunion and they gave me a diploma. I had quit school in the 10th grade.

#2: Track them down...that was his system and he says...um...Martin.....

#1: And you used to beat him with his act too, I might add.

#2: I says....yes, sir, Mr. President. You knew his voice. He says...uh ...they got a Naval station up here in...uh...New York somewhere. He said...I don't know who's district it's in. Well it was at Port Washington. It was in Kennedy's....Senator Kennedy's district I found out later. But he says this Naval station up there...I'm gonna move it to Orlando. Oh, I says, that's fine, Mr. President. And...uh...what can we do. Oh, he says, don't do anything. He says, when the time comes it will be announced through Senator Holland and Senator Smathers and...uh...I won't be known in it....you won't be known in it, but he said it's quite a big installation..it's quite a big thing. He said it's gonna be...starting with about 12,000 boys and it will go to about 18,000. And...uh...I said, well, I don't know how to thank you and all. He said...that's the way it oughta be. He says...I been there. He said I was there...he was down here campaigning one time, you know and we had.....

#1: That's right.

#2:and we had a parade for him down Orange Avenue.

#1: '64, I think.

#2: Yea

#1: Yea

#2:and he said then...I was riding in the car with him...with George Smathers and...um...he said...George, you know we oughta do something for Martin. This is a big crowd....the people were lining the streets, you know, and he was all enthused and feeling good. And George says Mr. President. Maybe when...uh...after the election you could come back and we give him a dinner and...uh...uh...everybody likes a dinner ...he says...I says...listen, George, I don't want any dinner. I says I'll figure out something, so you fellows just....to give us down there if you want to do something and then I....he said well let me know if I can help you. Well, later on I heard that they were gonna build a air space headquarters in Houston...tremendous building and I got in touch with Smathers...and Smathers would have lunch every Sunday...breakfast with him every Sunday morning. So you could always get to the Presi...

#1: Yea.

#2:you know people wonder how you get to somebody, well you do it through other people. You don't do it yourself. So...uh...I induced Smathers to bring up this probalation....uh...this...uh...Air Force... uh... headquarters...is that what they call it?

#1: You were 14 or 15?

#2: Yea, because I didn't...uh...I was working and I couldn't work and keep up my grades and all that sort of stuff. But.....

#1: So they gave you a diploma.

#2: So they....some....one of the girls went back and got the state board of education to issue this thing and they told me all the trouble they had to go through and I don't even know where it is now. X

#1: Oh!

#2: I was suppose to frame it.

#1: Well, you got...received a doctorate from Rollins before you got your high school diploma.

#2: Yea, I was a doctor before I graduated.

#1: Yes.

#2: But the greatest honor...of course...I don't...uh...I'd rather talk about some of these old timers.

#1: Okay. What ... inaudible ...

#2: This...this isn't a...I don't think this is a personal thing...where you should.....

#1: No.

#2:eulogize yourself and say what happened....I just told you now what a great political power I was.....

#1: Yea, yea

#2:with Billy Dial and almost got run out of town for pulling an Orange County Watergate, you know, and getting some roads. But...um ...the greatest honor I ever received, I think...it wasn't an honor, but...uh...the greatest acknowledgement was when...uh...Lyndon Johnson who was President...um...called me one time....I was in Boca Raton.... I'd gone down there for a publishers meeting and had just gotten there and was resting on the bed and the phone rang and he says....this is Lyndon. Now he was always calling...I mean he didn't call me all the time but when he did call...there was several times he called me...no matter where I was or where anybody was he could find them, you know. X

#1: Just track them down.

#1: In Houston?

#2: In Houston...it's a tremendous building..... inaudible background conversation taking place at same time..... millions of dollars. So... uh...after a few days I got a call from George Smathers, who was the Senator, and he says...well, Martin, I didn't have any luck on that ...Air...that...uh...that moon shoot headquarters...uh...he says, that's being done by a Congressman down there in Houston. I says, Senator, I know how it's being down and you know how it's being done. When we got this Naval Training Station and all I knew.....

#1: Sure.....yea

#2:every weekend through George Smathers....the President didn't do it. So...uh...but can't we figure around and change it. He says, no, they've let the contract. But if we had been alert and on the ball, you know, and figured out that they were gonna have to have a headquarters which, my God, I didn't see where they had to have a headquarters in Houston, you know.

#1: Yea

#2: We coulda got that thing right here in Orlando and that's the thing I think about. Yea.

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#2:we think we did something....I think about the ones we missed.....

#1: Yea

#2:you know, and I can name you a hundred of them.

#1: Well, like moving the capitol from Tallahassee to.....

#2:move it.....

#1:Orlando is one that I.....

#2: Yea, I can remember that and I know who did it. You're not taking that down are you.

#1: Yea....

.....TAPE TURNED OFF SO HE COULD TELL STORY.....

#1: Another thing we missed out on was the moving the tracks...the Gertrude tracks.

#2: Oh, yea, we coulda moved those tracks...uh...but nobody believed it.

#1: You crusaded for that from the.....

#2: Yea

#1:first time...when you first got here.....

#2: Yea

#1:as I remember.

#2: And...uh...this fellow who works over there with....thank you....works over there for Hubbard...uh....

#1: Graves, no?

#2: Graves....Graves, he was in the city hall.....

#1: Ed Graves was in the city hall.....

#2: Ed Graves was in the city hall. And he worked out a schedule of taxes which this new area in store fronts would have brought in and you wouldn't believe it. The revenue.

#1: Yes...

#2: And the revenue would have floated bonds to move the tracks west of town out there, you know, in the prairie country.

#1: Where would they have gone out....near Winter Garden...or.....?

#2: Out there on cheap land...a few orange groves that cut off it....leave Winter Park station there, see. We even wanted to compromise and let Winter Park be the railroad station, see.....

#1: Yea

#2:we got that far. And what's the difference, you know, now its ...its.....

#1: Well why didn't it materialize? Was it the railroad that was the

#2: The....uh....

#1: ... inaudible ... with the coastline or.....?

#2: The railroads...they had influence here, you know.

#1: They have to go through so much red tape.

#2: Yea...and we couldn't get any support.

#1: Yea.

#2:uh...you got to ... inaudible ... things...you just got to keep on beating the drum and you got to line up the political forces and it just takes a hell of a lot of time.

#1: Yea.

#2: But you see the railroads they have lawyers. Still have lawyers and something gets started like that...uh...they move in. And this fellow Anderson...he's crazy...he doesn't know what he's talking about... moving the tracks out there in the woods, you know. It'll cost \$10 million dollars, but the way Graves had figured it the taxes would have paid it. And it...it may have kept the shopping centers from being so prosperous.

#1: I know it. It's a shame really.

#2: You coulda had parking anywhere, you know. I you didn't have anything else.

GILES

#1: Well, tell me about some of the first people that you knew and some of your acquaintances in early Orlando. Mr. Jiles...was he the Mayor when you came here? Jiles...and then Mr. Wey, I think, wasn't it?

WAY

#2: Yes, Mr. Jiles was Mayor and...uh...he used to tell me about...uh... walking from Zellwood to Orlando and it took him all day.

#1: Well, I guess so.

Youell

#2: And...uh...then...uh...Mr. Youl used to tell me about how he had made his first dollar. And he made his first dollar by picking grapefruit and selling it to a winery. And...uh...what ever he picked...I don't know how they paid him, but he wound up...he made about a dollar a day a boy. And I often thought about Mr. Youl, who was a very fierce prohibitionist...if he ever thought that when he picked this grapefruit that they took it and made wine out of it and sold it to some of these poor hardworking grove guys and they got drunk off of it

#1: Yea.

#2:and went home and beat up their wives.

#1: I don't think I'll report that to the Youl Presbyters.

#2: Yes, I was a member of his Sunday School class.

#1: Were you really?

#2: Yea.

#1: Good

#2: And...uh...one day J.C. Robinson, who was manager of YOUL ... inaudible
... wanted to know if I would go over to the beach with him. Some of
his store help and we went over to the beach and a lot of them were
members of Mr. Youl's Sunday School class. We got over there...they
started a crap game and all of the boys working for Mr. Youl who hadn't
gone to his Sunday School class took all my money away from me in the
crap game.

#1: Oh....

MCKuen

#2: Well....uh...along about 1925, before I came here...just before the
crash, Dr. Jack McKuen decided to take a holiday and go back to France
which he had not seen since World War I when he served in a hospital
unit almost in the front line trenches. Dr. Jack was enjoying a few
days in New York just prior to going aboard his ship. The night before
he was to sail he received a telephone call from Dr. Edwards, his
partner and colleague, back in Orlando."Jack, all hell has broke
loose. Three banks closed today." Edward told him. "Three banks
closed. My gosh, that's pretty bad." "It's worse than that. I heard
two more are gonna close tomorrow." Dr. Edwards said. "That's enough
gasping." Dr. Jack said to his partner. "I'm coming home. I'll see you
day after tomorrow." He did and the other two banks were not opened to
greet him when he got home. That's the truth.

#1: The banks really failed?

#2: Yea.

#1: '28 wasn't it?

#2: Seven...seven banks. Well, now...uh.....

#1: Tell me about Mr. Wey. Do you remember him?

#2: I remember him...um...very distinctly, but...uh...I don't have any
...um...information on Mr. Wey.

#1: Yea

#2: I went fishing with him and played poker with him. He was a very
colorful man and a very enthusiastic man for Orlando. Supported the
Chamber of Commerce.woman's voice in background is inaudible
All of that.

#3: inaudible utilities for Orlando?

#2: No. Did you get the Dr. McKuen going to Okeechobee?

#1: No, you told me that before I started.....

#2: Yea

#1:I started the tape.

#2: Uh....perhaps a comparison of living practices in Orlando today and 50...75 years ago is the manner in which local doctors would travel about the country side up to a 100 miles to treat patients back in those days. This is a far cry from today when a physician would laugh right out loud if you ask him to pay a house call. He perhaps would suggest you get a bed at the hospital if there were....was an empty bed available at any of our numerous hospitals. Anyway, Dr. John McKuen would travel as far south as Okeechobee to see patients and as far north as St. Augustine. Carl Rodenbaugh, later a lieutenant in the local police department and head of the police cycle squad of some 3 vehicles would drive Dr. McKuen on this arduous trips. Carl is still alive and lives in Orlando....doing fine except for a touch of arthritis. "How long did it take you and Dr. McKuen to reach Okeechobee...we asked Carl? "Well, it all depended upon the water. If the creeks and big cypress swamp were down to middle and low, we could make it in a day by fording them. But if the creeks were up, sometimes we would have to turn back or take a boat and cross the swollen creek ...then continue by wagon or horseback. Sometimes the wagon was drawn by oxen." The same was true of Rodenbaugh's visit to St. Augustine. His record trip to that city was about 14 hours...leaving at dark and arriving at 8:30 that night. "The speed limit was 30 miles an hour in those days," explained Carl, "but the speed law had little to do with the time you made. It was how you navigated the sandy trails and the ruts and how successfully you cross the streams. There were no bridges anywhere." Dr. McKuen, father of General John McKuen, Bo, and Robert McKuen served in the hospital unit at the French front in World War I. He was accustomed to roughing it after fording Everglades creeks and his....to see his Okeechobee patients. Dr. Crist, a wealthy real estate owner, also traveled about the countryside to visit patients miles away. He died in his office one night from a heart attack. He had just returned from a hard trip out on the countryside to call on patients.

CHRIST.

#1: I remember Dr. Crist. Calvin Crist.

#3: Do you want to cut it off a minute, Jean.

#1: Yes.

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#1: Those memoirs of a pioneer you put into book form for him.....

#2: Yea

#1:to didn't you?

#2: Yea.

#1: I've got a copy of that at home.

#2: Very poorly printed.

#1: I know. The binding's falling off.

#2: Yea

#1: But it is old.

#2: Well,.....

#1: You printed....you didn't print Mr. Gore's book did you?

#2: No...someone else printed that.

#1: Uh huh.

#2: ~~Balem~~ (? ^{GORE}) Gore.

#1: Yea

#2: I knew him.

#1: He and Mr. E. H. ^{GORE} Deer and

.....TAPE MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#1: Okay, well go ahead and tell about some more personalities.

#2: Uh...back in the early thirty's downtown Orlando was excited over the robbery of the Youl-Duda Department Store...now Ivey's. The safe had been blown and some cash taken. After several days of investigation by the sheriff's department, Mr. Youl asked the sheriff for a report. He sent over his chief deputy. "Well, have you fellows found the crooks who robbed my store?" Mr. Youl asked. "Yep, we know who did the dirty work", the deputy replied. "Who were they and when are you going to put them in jail?" "Mr. Youl, those fellows are remnants of the old Ashley gang,.....

#1: Oh!.....

#2:who hang out in the Everglades making moonshine and robbing banks an stores. This is the outfit...uh...one legged Sheriff Baker of Palm Beach waylaid on a bridge out of Melbourne and shot to pieces several years ago. This is what's left of the gang. Uh...Sheriff Baker wore a cork leg but...uh...he got around pretty well. "You know who they are then?" "Yea"

.....END OF TAPE #1.....

#2:to make an arrest. "We ain't", the deputy told Mr. Youl. "Why not?", Mr. Youl demanded, disgustedly. "Mr. Youl, those fellows would kill us. They'll kill anybody who gets within sight and distance of their hangout down there in the...around Lake Okch....Okeechobee and that ain't gonna be me." No arrests were ever made.

#1: Um....well, they did...didn't the Ashley gang hole up in Oran...Orlando
on Amelia or Concord or.....

#2: The remnants of them.

#1: Yea...uh...yea.

#2: The real ones though...they got killed most of them.

#1: Yea. Well, do you remember Ma Barker...all that.....

#2: Yea, yea

#1:episode. That was an interesting.....

CLYDE MCKINNEY

#2: Yea, Slick ~~Maeany~~ called me up one morning about 6:00...he was going somewhere and he says....up here at...uh...right the other side of Leesburg.

#1: Lake Weir was it?

#2: Lake Weir....and he says there's a hell of a battle going on. And I says...what's the matter Slick,...uh...you drunk this early in the morning? He says....no, I'm telling you the truth Martin. He says...there's the shooting you can here it all over. And he says...I tried to get through to go to Ocala and they got the roads blocked...the highway blocked....you can't go nowhere and so I came back to Leesburg and called you. And...uh...so later on...uh...we investigated and it was the...the FBI had moved in on...uh...Ma Barker and her three sons who were living in this house and the way the FBI had discovered they were living there...uh...one of these boys wrote a postcard to his girlfriend in Chicago telling her about this big alligator....the biggest alligator in the state of Florida is....lives on the lake where

we live. So the FBI came to Florida and figured out from the...um... the state Game and Fish Department where was the biggest alligator in the state of Florida and they named this lake.

#1: Tracked it down to that lake.

#2: Tracked it down to la....and that's all it was to it.

#1: Yea. I remember it was dramatized on "Gangbusters" pro...radio program years ago and it's been written up many times. The last time it was written up in the Sentinel they didn't even mention the alligator.

#2: No, they didn't. I noticed that.

#1: And...and I.....

#2: But the alligator was the clue.

#1: I...I...that's what I thought...yea.

#2: The...um...if you...if you wish to measure how far Orlando and mankind has progressed in two generations, here's an example. The father of Dorothy and Issac Prescott drove a Knox Wagon Express Service from Orlando to Sanford in the early 1900's picking up freight from the railroad station in front of Bumby's store and hauling it to Sanford. I never could quite understand that because the train must have stopped at Sanford, but they tell me this is a true story. Maybe the train... maybe this was heavy express or something and they wouldn't stop at Sanford. Anyway, Issac came along and became a flying farmer piloting his own plane all over the country as a member of the famous Flying Farmers Association. From ox cart to wings in one lifetime.

#1: Oh, gosh.

#2: These pilots came to Orlando every year for the flying alligator party. When the only planes in the....at the city airport on Cheney Highway ...Highway were flown in by the delegates.

#1: Hum.....

#2: You'd go out there on a Sunday afternoon, you know, to see one or two planes take off. You'd take your children and say.....

#1: I remember that.

#2:see that's an airplane, see.

#1: I remember that.

#2: And then go home, see.

#1: I remember you could get 50 cents if you'd.....

#2: Yea

#1:fly over Orlando.

#2: Their parties....their big one taking place at the Orlando Country Club with initiation into the Alligator Club were also produced by Radio *Nick Nicholson* "Nate" Hussmiller (?) and Ed Neilson. Nick left his snakes at home this time. I told you about Nick and his snakes before?

#1: Yea, yea.

#2: But bought a coup....but brought a couple of gators on a rope which he introduced to the visitors.

#1: Hum.....

#2: Many of whom he...had never seen a gator. They would have to be....the people who wanted to join the club, they would come from all over. Mississippi, I know of a friend of mine from Greenwood, Mississippi was over there with his...with his plane. And they would have to go up and pat the alligator on the head.

#1: Ohh.....

#2: And, of course, it wasn't a real alligator....it was a rubber alligator that Nick had a motor in and he would move, you know.....

#1: Oh! Really?

#2:and scared the hell of out them.

#1: Is Radio Nick still around?

#2: Yea.

#1: I haven't heard anything about him in a long time. I remember when he tried to start a zoo down here.

#2: Yea, I had something about that.

#1: On Garland and

#2: I got that somewhere.

#1:and...um.....

#2: They worked

#1:Livingston.

#2:Saturdays and Sundays building the zoo and Harry Leu used to raise hell with them because he didn't want any zoo in front of his store. And that's where it was.

#1: Yes, uh huh....across the street, that's right.

#2: But...uh...they had a lot of energy, but they didn't have any research on zoos and about the time they got it built somebody started telling them what it cost to feed a bear or a lion and when, course, after everybody....I think it was the Lions Club. After they had worked for five or six months building this thing out of stone and rocks.....

#1: Yes, I remember they had a cage.....

#2: Cages and

#1:in the back

#2:and caves all. It was terrible....wonderful thing they're building, but they're tired and worn out and when they heard about what it cost to buy a tiger...er...a lion...to say nothing of an elephant and what it cost to feed them and keep it clean, they decided that Harry P. Leu was right.laughter.... Generally, as usual, see.

#1: Yea.

#2: That it would be a hard place to maintain and so they dropped the idea and they....somebody came along and move the bricks out.

#1: Were there ever any animals in the zoo?

#2: No

#1: It was.....

#2: I think they took donations....they would take a coon or a....something small, you know, that somebody.....

#1: Four legged coon.

#2: Yea....yes....four legged coon.

#1: Oh, I got that on tape. I better rub that out.

#2: Well, ...um...another crime story that rock the city of Orlando was the robber of the old First National Bank in the 30's. Burglars entered the adjoining building on Church Street. Cut through the roof of the mezzanine floor over the bank, dropped down in the safety deposit vault

room and ransacked their locked boxes. The amount of securities taken was never announced. As a matter of fact the bank never knows how much securities people have in their locked boxes. Anyway, the burglars were never caught. Some of the bonds stolen that night showed up twenty years later according to Dick Douglas when their then owners turned in the coupons and collected their interest.

#1: I didn't know that.

#2: Did....have you got any Municipal Bonds?

#1: No. But I remember when the bank was burglarized.

#2: They never announced how much.

#1: Well, I don't mean to correct you but I think it was in the 40's.

#2: What, the year?

#1: Uh huh.

#2: Oh, well, I don't know when it was.

#1: Cause I was working at the paper. I didn't start working there until '46. Maybe it was....maybe you're speaking of another one. But I remember that burglary and it never was solved. We never did um.....

#2: Well the story there, of course, is the fact that if somebody steals your bonds out of a safety deposit box, unless you have them insured

#1: Uh huh....

#2:which I do, you don't get any money. Now the bank was

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#2:in the old days, those citizens of Orlando, prosperous enough to own automobiles would leave Florida and tour the country every summer. Some would rent houses around Andersonville, North Carolina and Highland. But others would see far they could travel across the country and how fast they could go. One of these was J.P. Holsbrook, who's brother worked at Bumby's Hardware and was noted for curing warts....warts by the laying on of hands.

#1: I didn't know that was his brother.

#2: Anyway this summer.....

#1: This is so interesting.

#2:yea....anyway this summer J.P. Holsbrook had made a trip across the country from Florida to California in his big car. He followed the ... inaudible ... route several thousand miles burning up lots of gasoline. Jogging left and jogging right. In those days they didn't have highway numbers, but you had a little book from...uh...Orlando to Jacksonville. When you'd go through a town you'd jog right or you'd jog left at a corner. You'd go so many miles. You'd go one mile and jog left. You don't remember that?

#1: No..... inaudible did you know that?

#2: And you'd go....after you got...after you'd jog that mile, you'd jog right and go five miles somewhere else. And then they'd say jog left and that's the way you would go.....

#1: Well, how could you read...read the book and drive at the same time?

#2: Well, you're wife was with you or your girlfriend or somebody. And that's the way you would get across the country.

#1: You had to have a navigator, then?

#2: You had to have a navigator.....

#1: Well, I never knew that.

#2:and these little books were printed by the gas people...gas stations.

#1: Well, that's interesting.

#2: Uh....When Mr. Holsbrook finally got home, tired and exhausted, he drove down Orange Avenue headed for house. As he past the corner of Central and Orange, policeman Casey, high up in the colorful 30 foot traffic tower in the middle of the street.....

#1: Oh, that white tower, yea.

#2:which served to regulate traffic before the days of red and green and amber automatic lights...he yelled out...Casey yelled out at Mr. Holsbrook with his booming top sergeant voice..."Where do you think you're going, to a fire? Cut down on your speed." "Thank God," exclaimed Mr. Holsbrook, "I've traveled the...over the mountains and through the valleys and across the dessert. I have seen many strange sights and heard many strange sounds, but this bellowing voice of Officer Casey up there in that tower is the sweetest music I've heard in months. I'm home again."

#2: J.P. Holsbrook. Now he married Judge Frank Smith's sister? I think.

#3: Yea, Margaret.....

#2: Margie Holsbrook.

#3: Yea, married ... inaudible ...

#2: How much tape you

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#1:okay, tell me about "Florida On Parade".

#2: Well, "Florida on Parade" is never paraded. It's been dead low these many years. But, I've always contended that it was a brilliant idea and perhaps could have been accomplished if the leaders of the community had not gone through two severe depressions. Not one, but two...one right after the other. And it took all of their energy and took their life blood out of them.

#1: So this was in the middle 30's, then?

#2: This was about 1934.

#1: Uh huh.

#2: I had been running the papers about three years when in 1934 some of the town's leading promoters, Harry Leu, Doc Estes, Deewee Miller, N.P. Yeal, Harry Dixon were called into a night meeting by Crawford Pickford, then secretary of the County Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Carl Lambert, who had been fired because someone said he went to a picture show one afternoon and moved to Sanford and tried to awaken the sleeping town over there. Cause of the meeting was the plight of the city. Growth was stagnant. The depression wasn't getting any better and Bickford proposed formation of "Florida on Parade" which would startle the whole country with its bravado and showmanship at a time when people were starving. And he hoped exposed our people....expose our people into action. Several meetings were held and two or three thousand dollars raised. Two or three thousand was a lot of money. The movement when so far as to acquire some 70 acres of land surround Loch Haven. This property was picked up in the name of the city of Orlando from Dr. P. Phillips and others for the avowed purpose of building an international exposition. How the Worlds Fair was going to finance itself was never quite clear. There was a hint that stock would be sold but no stock was ever printed. And with no more than two thousand or three thousand in the kitty the cause soon ran out of steam. If the promoters had not been exhausted by two depressions in a row, one coming in 1925 with the boom and bust in real estate and the other the national panic of the early 30's, following the stock market

DEWITT

Yowell
DICKSON
CARL LEHMANN

crash of 1929. And if only they could have hung on a little longer and dream a little more realistically, they may have appealed to the new President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was introducing a new theory of giving away money for raking leaves and for building public parks, city, county, and state projects, bridges and new highways. We had the man to do this. He was Chip Roberts of the firm of Roberts and Company of Atlanta who used the back door of the White House whenever he wanted to see the President. Although Mr. Roberts firm represented Orlando Utilities Commission as consulting engineers and he was familiar with our town he never offered to bail out "Florida On Parade" at the White House and nobody in Orlando ever thought to ask him to do so, although later on in the Roosevelt career, Roberts promoted many projects, financed by federal funds in their entirety. When I finally met Mr. Roberts and told him about the dog days of "Florida On Parade", he remarked that he could have helped us in Washington. But going to Washington for money just wasn't fashionable in those early days of the Roosevelt regime. That was before the development of the huge government perk projects and buildings and the people of Orlando and all of Florida, for that matter, were simply too whipped down by the depression and too mentally and physically exhausted to attempt any suggestion as radical as a Washington handout. If times had not been so hard and our people had not been so weary Orlando may have had a Disney World 30 years sooner than when Mickey Mouse finally got here.

- #1: That's true. It sounded like it was full of promise.
- #2: Right. The same ingredients. For an inte....for an international fair, warm weather, ample land, beautiful lakes where here then and they were as they were when Walt Disney first looked us over. But our hotel capacity, at that time, was only about 400 rooms and all of our streets and roads went one way. There was some of the answers.... these were some of the answers when I and others among the few believers tried to stir up interest in "Florida On Parade". ... inaudible ... to a World's Fair for little old Orlando.
- #1: Would it have been a permanent World's Fair? I mean would it.....
- #2: Permanent, everything in place.
- #1: Uh huh. And that's in the Lake Estelle area where Loch Haven is now.
- #2: That's right. People finally began to chuckle over the whole idea and it just...it just never got off the ground. We believed they missed the boat when we failed to enlisted Mr. Robert's support. What with his Washington connection and his vast experience in engineering he certainly could have spoken intelligently and ... inaudible ... for our project. As he later became interested in projects sponsored by the W.P.A. and N.R.A., but there is little room to fault Orlando's fathers of influence but not for certainly the idea of a World's Fair in the middle of a depression. They had already followed too many deceptive

rainbows produced by the Knickerbocker clan ... inaudible ... boys in 1925 and their subsequent bank failures. Some seven right here in Orlando. That followed in their trails.

#1: Yea.

#2: The city profited by "Florida On Parade" idea after all. Dr. P. Phillips and his neighbors out there around Loch Haven, Mr. Welsh and Mr. Lynch, deeded the seven acres....seventy acres to the city for back taxes. As we citizen have acquired the Young....John Young ~~Art Museum~~ Science and other buildings that grace it's spacious area.

Center

#1: Uh huh.

#2: Perhaps some day one our city hall regimes will recognize Dr. Phillips, and the development he has provided through his own ... inaudible ... energy...money and ingenuity and rename Loch Haven....rename Loch Haven Park for the cultural Dr. P. Phillips.

#1: I had forgotten that he was a prime mover in that "Florida On Parade".

#2: The land....yea...he gave the land. He...he...he wasn't for the idea.

#1: Yea.

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#2:Casselberry out there.....

#1: Yea.

#2:was watering his azaleas, camellias and everything and about two or three....and he would let the ice stay on the leaves of the bushes to protect them. Well, several years ... inaudible ... we had a hard freeze and...uh... I issued an order that we would turn on our sprinklers, you know, and.....

#1: After?

#2:after the freeze.

#1: Yea

#2: We had a big freeze and we turned on our sprinklers and it was one hell of a freeze. And the sun never came out and melted the icicles and they got heavier and heavier and they broke the limbs of the ... inaudible ... and we lost ...inaudible... orange grove.

#1: Did you advise that in the paper?

#2: No, this was my personal grove.

#1: Oh!...oh...oh, I see. I thought.....

#2: No, but we would always run pictures of these.

#1: I know, the icicles.

#2: ... inaudible ... Casselberry...how he beats the freeze.

#1: Yea

#2: And he would water his azaleas down, he had them all along the side of his road there....in his tax free town, you know.

#1: Yea

#2: And...uh...you'd drive and see the icicles and say that's gorgeous, why does he do it, isn't that gonna kill them. And he says no, they come out better when the sun shines and melts them, see.

#1: Yea

#2: The sun never came out. I got something here about Blanch Parshall.

#1: Oh. Blanch Parchall, I can remember her. What'd they call her, Muddy?

#2: No.

#1: I mean her daughters.....

#2: Her daughters.....

#1:her daughters called her "Muddy".

#2: This is one I had fun writing.

#1: The Blanch Parshall one or?

#2: Yea.

#1: She was really an attractive,.....

#2: Oh, she was gorgeous.

#1:exotic person.

#2: Orlando, like all of Florida and most southern towns grew beautiful girls. And in the 40's the boys training here at Orlando Air Base on

their way to war claimed many of them as brides. Ella Rains, one of the reigning movie stars.....

#1: That's the rein Rainey?

#2: Yea...as restless and as intelligent as she was pretty came to town to see her soldier husband and rented a house next door to Tim Cobb and Mary Park. He sent her to my office one day...she barged in a total stranger and asked if I could get her officer husband transferred from Orlando to California where she was making movies. I told her I would try and the following Sunday, I invited the couple out to my Longwood place where they met General Peabody, head of the base, and his wife. It took only a few minutes for the General, impressed with her charming beauty and youth, to transfer the movie queen's spouse to California where they were promptly divorced.

#1:laughter..... Oh, that's cute.

SIS

#2: When ~~This~~ Hopkins.....

#1: Oh, yes, now she married.....

#2:who had served.....you remember her?

#1: Yea, she was secretary to Ruth Brian Owen.....

#2: Yea

#1:wasn't she? Over in.....

#2: Social secretary.

#1: inaudible... Harbor, someplace?

SIS

#2: When ~~This~~ Hopkins, who had served as social secretary to Ruth Brian Owen...O W E N S....when she was ambassador or minister to Denmark, had an argument with her father on the eve of her wedding to Bob Madden, Navy commander, the wedding to take place in the gardens of Peridell on Gore Avenue.....

#1: Oh, my, I didn't realize that. The ~~old~~ Beeman's home.

#2: The old....this was the former home of Harry Beeman, local chewing gum heir, and the partnerfather of another beauty of an earlier day, Mary Beeman. Anyway, ~~This~~ and her father pouted on the eve of her wedding and I walked her down the lane of rose bushes to the altar to give ~~This~~ in marriage. It was the longest walk I had ever...I have ever remembered taking. Among the other pretty girls of that period were Blanch Georgine Fishback.

Betty

#1: Oh, yes.

MCKEAN

#2: Who use to play tennis in my back yard with Hugh ~~McKane~~, then a Rollins student and later president of Rollins College. Blanch married a Pittsburgh millionaire. We lived across the street from Eleanor Estes, a raving favorite who met her husband at Rollins. Among the ~~Ted~~ pretty girls of her day were the three ~~Ted~~ girls...sisters...Ann and Jean and Betty. Ann married Champ Williams, who was a soda jerker in Hicks Drug Store, next door to the Sentinel. Who would have thought that young Champ would throw a party 40 years later with Guy Lombardo as a \$7,000 piece d'resistance.

#1: That was really some party wasn't it?

#2: Wasn't it...it sure was. And I got a picture with old Guy.

#1: Oh, good.

#2: Yea, I forgot to smile and it's not any good. Other beauties.....

#1: I didn't.....

#2:go ahead.

SIS

#1: I didn't know that you'd given ~~This~~ Hopkins away?

#2: Yea, only ~~w~~...only woman I ever gave away in marriage.

MARIA

#3: Didn't you give ~~Margie~~ away?

#2: Yea. I don't count those. Other beauties.....

#1: All right go ahead with... inaudible

#2:who found husbands in the Air Force were Dory Chappel and Jean Odie. Beauties then and to this day.

#3: Dottie Chappel.

#2: All right, Dottie Chappel. I was thinking of Dory Grembel.

#3: Oh yea,... inaudible ...

#1: I remember Dory, she was your secretary.

#2: Yea boy.

#3: Yea.

#1: Yea, she was.....

#2: Something.

#1:else.

#2: But perhaps enchanting beauty of the 30's was the tall one who drove down Orange Avenue heading north every afternoon about 3:00 p.m. Her two daughters, then ages 5 and 6 were always with her in that long, slim olive green Packard, top down.....Packard, top down, of course. They frequently wore matching costumes.....

#1: That's right, but.....

#2:but never failed to wear long white kid gloves.....

#1: Yea

#3: And white ... inaudible ...

#2: The gloves were their trademark. And with these little girls flashed about their pet poodle, another regular in the car. At that time Jim and Blanch Parchall had not been long in Orlando after leaving th.... leaving their native town of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. And there was a certain mystic about her. They had not yet begun to circulate at the Saturday night country club dances nor the.....nor show up at Flamingo, which was a rival in popularity to the country club for the Saturday nights on the town. People would always go out on Saturday night, you know, they'd either go to the country club or they'd go to Flamingo and a lot of 'em went to both places.

#1: Uh huh.

#2: Went to country club first. And then they would get drunk and go to Flamingo and eat bean soup.....

#1: Oh, yea.

#2:served by Julia Warren.....

#1: Uh huh.

#2:and then lose all their money gambling.

#1: That...that's when Sam Warren had it.

#2: Yea, but Julie.....

.....MACHINE STOPS.....

#2:and he married some show girl and to impress her he bought a span of horses and bought a surrey and would drive down Orange Avenue with these beautiful horses and his new wife, you know, on parade.

#1: Well, my gosh.

#2: And he finally went in the horse business, like I did and he went broke in the horse business. Thank God, I got out of it before I went broke.

#1: Now, you sold that, didn't you?

#2: Yea.

#1: Yea. Is that all about Blanche Parchall?

#2: Yea, Blanche Parchall was...uh...was...uh...a pretty woman...a striking brunette. As you say exotic. With lovely, olive dark skin. Flashing large brown eyes. Those shining raven locks flowing in the wind as she passed in her Packard down the avenue. Had Charles Revlon been around then, his famous model, Lauren Hutton, would still be looking for a job because Charles Revlon would have gone for Sally Parc....Blanche Parchall.

#1: She was pretty.

#2: Such was her beauty, that store keepers would come out of their shops and lawyers rushed to their windows to watch this one car parade through the avenue every afternoon. Leslie Sanders Sentinel columnist wrote an eloquent tribute to her which no doubt added to her mystic. Leslie started the piece by quoting the song "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes". He confessed that Blanche's beauty had clouded his view and rumpled flame like the smoke befuddled peoples eyes. Thus he extolled this pencil slam newcomer whose reserve....who had with reserves in the right places. He wound up with another quote from a song, "When This Sweetie Drives Down The Street, All The Birdies Go Tweet, Tweet, Tweet". Sounds kinda corny now, but this is what he wrote and, of course, in giving such publicity to this...uh...beautiful girl in this beautiful car...it helped to build the legend of Blanche Parchall before anybody hardly knew her.

#1: Uh huh

#2: Blanche Parchall turned out to be no mystic. She was practical, successful mother and raised those two kids properly.

#1: She did a marvelous job.

#2: They both married exceptionally well. One to a General, still in the service. And both are still married to their first husbands. Blanche Parchall may have given staid old sleepy Orange Avenue a refreshing

breath of costly perfumed air on a hot Sunday afternoon as she drove through the main drag, perhaps chuckling at the gawking natives. But it...when it came to her family, she came through with flying colors.

#1: She certainly did. That...that's excellent.

#2: I liked to write that. I liked her.

#1: I did too.

#2: I remember R.B. Brascer would

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#2:Biltmore and our first golf tournament.

#1: Oh, good, good.

#2: Did you know we had a golf tournament here?

#1: No, no.

#2: Forty years ago...fifty years ago. I think the first prize was a thousand dollars.

#1: Where was it, at the country club, or?

#2: Yea, yea.

#1: Oh.

#2: Do you want.....

.....END OF SIDE #1, TAPE #2.....

#1: Tell me about the...tell me about the first..uh..was it a golf tournament?

#2: Yes, uh...Orlando's first national golf tournament. It was played at the Orlando Country Club in a reawakening of civic pride that the town had along about 1934 or '35. It seems like in those years we were promoting Florida On Parade and we must have been agitated and in a hurry to get out of the...the depression. Anyway, along about that time, Colonel Henry Hal Dority of City Service had bought two Miami hotels and he hired Carl Byoir...B Y O I R...to promote these two hotels. One was the Miami Biltmore and the other was the ... inaudible ... Plaza. Briar...Briar...Byoir dreamed no small dreams and he decided not only to promote the two hells....hotels for Colonel Dority but to pro....promote the whole state as well as Miami. He came to Orlando and made a \$15,000 deal with the Chamber of Commerce to have it

join in a winter publicity campaign. He gave us our first national golf tournament with Sam Sneed, Hagen, Sarazen, and stars of 40 years ago.....

#1: Really.....

#2:competing.....

#1:goodness I didn't know that.

#2:at the old country club golf course and I think the first prize money was a thousand dollars or less.

#1: Oh, gosh.

#2: As I remember he had a man named Hammond to write the stories about the golf course and I asked someone connected with Byoir, why did they bring their own writer...why couldn't the local correspondent for the Associated Press write the story about the tournament and he says...this fellow Hammond knows how to write golf.

#1: Oh.....

#2: And later I found out that he knew what he was talking about. He did know how to write golf and he was writing not only for Carl Byoir and the city of Orlando, but he was writing for the Associated Press and the United Press and...uh...golf in 19....forty years ago wasn't as well known as it is today and a lot of people then didn't know what a bogey was, to say nothing of a double bogey or a triple bogey. So he had his own man and he installed a publicity man here in Orlando who had an assistant...uh...girl and they would turn out pictures of bathing beauties under an orange tree and following the same procedures that Hanagan did in...uh...Miami many years before.

#1: Yea

#2: The theory being that a pretty girl will always get printed. He gave us our first national golf tournament, as I said and the prize money, no one would sneeze at at the day,.....

#1: Yea...

#2:was, I think, less than a thousand dollars.

#1: If you could get anybody out on the course.

#2: Right

#1: I think I might try, but.....

#2: Well, there weren't many people out on the course watching them either.

#1: Oh, is that right.....

#2: Oh, no. I mean.....

#1: inaudible ... filled gallery.

#2:uh...they didn't have any trouble parking cars because nobody really went to see it. The...the tournament was put on to publicize the name of Orlando and to connect Orlando with activity and winter sports and to bring people down here, perhaps to stay at the Wyoming Hotel and the Orange Court. Like I said a while ago, you only had about 400 hotel rooms in Orlando and Winter Park.

#1: Yea.

#2: He introduced the Biltmore Hotel....the Miami Biltmore Hotel which he owned, by the way, by filling a bus full of Orlando businessmen ... inaudible ... him down to Coral Gables and pull.....putting them up for three days with free lodgings and free board. Nothing like that had ever been done before and the businessmen certainly fought to get their places on the bus. Standing in the lobby one day.....

#1: Did you go?

#2: I went, certainly. I went and...uh...I was among the leaders and I was standing in the lobby one day and I notice a wealthy Orlando man came in burdened with a sack of bottles. "What do you have there in that sack", I asked this guest...this free guest of Colonel Dority who was feeding, sleeping, and entertaining these people. "I went out and bought some soda", this Orlando man told me. "Do you know what they charge for it in room service in this hotel? Forty cents a bottle." Colonel....this...that's the truth.

#1: Is that right, gosh.

#2: Colonel Dority and Carl Byoir had neglected to include club soda in their list of gratuities for their guests.

#1: Oh....laughter.....

#2: We met George E. Merick, the developer of.....

#1: Oh, yea.

#2:Coral Gables walking around the Biltmore golf course on this trip. He was a forlorn, neglected guest among the crowd of notablesor a crowd who thought they were notables. A few years before he had graduated from Rollins College, moved to Miami and signed a \$75

million dollar contract to develop Coral Gables. Among his moves was one employing William Jennings Bryan, at \$100,000 to lecture the prospects. We had the audacity to ask Mr. Merick..."What happened Mr. Merick, you once owned all of this and William Bryan....William Jennings Bryan once worked for you selling lots. How could you lose it all so fast?" Mr. Merick did not mind my question. He apparently had been asked it before. "You see that ditch over there?", he said pointing to a ravine about 500 feet distance. "That ditch did it all. I tried to bring Coral Gables to the ocean or the ocean to Coral Gables and ran...ran out of money. Mine and other peoples too."

#1: Was Merick related to the Brascers somehow?

#2: No. Had one on Flamingo.

#1: Oh, the club?

#2: Yea.

#1: Oh, good.

#2: Andy Lassiter, a popular yankee bachelor, kept books for Mr. E.R. Phillips, a stock speculator.....speculator, who went everyday to Thomson and McKinnon brokerage office where he bought and sold securities. Manager Crisp personally handled his account. Mr. Phillips had moved to Orlando after he had practically....after he was practically cleaned out by the market crash of th early 30's when he had only \$10 million bucks left. They say, however, that Mr. Phillips account kept Thomson, McKinnon in business here all through the depression.

#1: Hum....

#2: Anyway, Lassiter entertained every spring at the end of the winter season, a Mac McKenzie of Providence, Rhode Island and Nassau, British West Indies. McKenzie operated the only gambling casino on the island. When it would close at the end of the season he would always stop off on his way back to Providence and visit his friend, Andy Lassiter. Upon arriving in Orlando, McKenzie would huddle with Lassiter and the two of them would make up a guest list for the visiting potentate, McKenzie's annual bash at the old Flamingo Club for an evening of dancing and dining and for some gambling. In those days gambling was wide open in Orlando as it was throughout most of the state, particularly in Palm Beach and Miami.

#1: Where was the gambling at the Flamingo? I use to just go out there and dance.....

#2: Oh, it was in the

#1:was it in the back? Nobody ever invited me to play

#2: Oh, it was in the back....the back was about half as big as the front.
As I said before, Julia Warren ran the bean soup department.....

#1: Yea, I remember the bean soup, but.....

#2:and in the back her husband ran the...uh...crap table and the
blackjack table and the roulette wheel and...uh...there must have been
five or six different.....

#1: Did you ever go....go gambling back there?

#2:gambling contrivances. Sure she went back there.

#1: Uh....

#3: With him.

#1: I guess I was just protected.

#2: To startle the girls....wives....to startle the girls....wives of his
friends, McKenzie always placed a \$10 gold piece under their plates.
We getting back to McKenzie now.....

#1: Yea, yea, yea, yea.

#2:who visited Andy Lassiter. And this was in the middle of the
depression.....

#1: Oh, my.....

#2:a \$10 gold piece, see.

#1:God. I wish....is he still here?

#2: If it had been a two dollar bill it would have startled them.
Everybody was broke. But McKenzie's Flamingo party was the zenith of
the season for this group and you can be assured that both McKenzie and
Lassiter led off the guest list at all functions that followed
McKenzie's golden party.

#1: Yea

#2: And the women guests would appear in a new dress bought with their \$10
gold piece the next weekend.

#1: Whatever happened to them? Are they still...Mr. Lassiter and.....

#2: He's dead.

#1: McKenzie is he dead too?

#2: I guess so, that's been a long time ago.

#1: Oh.

#2: Uh....I remember

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#2:when he died, Mr. Phillips, Andy was in the...uh...Cadillac Restaurant...that...um...Winter Park.

#1: Oh, yea, where....yea...

#2: Yea, that's where.....

#1:Five Points or that area, uh huh.

#2: And...uh...you're not taking this?

.....MACHINE TURNED OFF.....

#2:Heyer.

#1: Mr. ...uh...

#2: Bob Heyer.

#1: Bob Heyer. Is he the one that had the livery stable or was that his father?

HEYER

#2: Yea...oh...it was Mr. Bob Heyer personally. But in these days that I'm talking about it's after he sold the livery stable and had made a lot of money and was lending it to other people to make money on. Um... riding home on the old Atlantic Coastline ... inaudible ... from New York, I ran into Bob Heyer of Heyer and Davis. I had seen him many times on the street, nodded to him, but that was all. I knew he was a treasure house of stories and historic data of Central Florida. So I didn't try to tell him about my visit to New York. Pretty soon he opened up. See this suit, he remarked, grabbing the crease of his blue serge trousers between his fingers. This suit cost me \$15. Never paid more than \$15 for a suit of clothes in my life. Always buy from Jim Slimmers. SLEMONS

#1: On Church Street.

#2: What would he see on Church Street. When I came to town, Slimmers had a store on Orange Avenue near Youl-Drews and they had some ladies high button shoes in the window.

#1: Hum

#2: In 1931.

#1: Gosh

#2: That's the truth. Now, I've often wondered if they put those in there as a kind of curiosity.....

#1: Yea, yea, I know.

#2:come on or whether they put them in there two or three years before and forgot to take them out.

#1: That's probably it. Kinda like Bumby Hardware. How cute.

#2: Uh...let's see. What.....

#1: You were talking about Bob Heyer.

#2:would he say....what would Bob Heyer say about prices today...\$75 ...\$85...\$150 for a suit of clothes. He went on talking about various subjects. About Erlow Bronson. We loaned him a lot of money, Heyer and Davis was the firm name. He always pays off. Knows the cattle business backwards. He made a lot of money. Will make a lot more. We recall that Erlow use to buy tax deeds on the Orange County Courthouse steps as did many other people. One day he bought a tax deed on an orange grove we had just planted. Somehow, our bookkeeper had neglected to pay the taxes on the grove and when Erlow's agent brought it in and was told the land had just been freshly planted in trees... that in those days cost \$1.00 each, Erlow called my office and told me about his purchase. His agent had bought the tax deed on my grove. But Erlow knew that his agent had done so through a fluke and he didn't want to make money out of my mistake. Of course, I promptly paid my taxes and recovered the grove without penalty. Erlow Bronson, incidentally, sold most of the 27,000 ~~dollars~~.... *acres for Disney*

#1: Is that the same one?

#2: Yea, we talked about that.

#1: Yea.inaudible....papers being rustled and machine being moved....

#2: Well, now that get everything I've got except some of these things here ...I don't know whether you can use them or not, but....um...

#1: inaudible ...vignettes or.....

#2: Many a old time scene.

#1: Oh, good.

#2: Bill Sharkey, who operated the town's most popular cafe next to the Beecham Theater hopping across the street in his familiar white coat. You know he use to wear a white coat all the time?

#1: Oh, really.

#2: And when you went in there he always personally went and spoke to you. He may not wait on you.....

#1: Yea, I remember Sharkey....

#2:sometimes he was at the office...yea.....

#1:being up there. It was really ... inaudible ...

#2: Well, he would go back and forth from his restaurant to the brokerage office. And he'd wear that white coat across the street and the cars would see him coming and stop and let him pass. Linton Allen who liked to say...Make no little plans...Dream no small dreams... He built the Sun National Bank building and put up land option money to bring the Martin Company to town.

#1: That's right.

#2: Only \$1,750 dollars, but he put it up, nobody else did.

#1: Yea.

#2: Giving Orlando the largest industrial payroll in the state. W.R. O'NEAL
~~O'Neill~~, insurance man...banker...merchant who opened all conferences with this declaration...What I say here is between us within the confines of these four walls....

#1: Oh, my. How great.

#2: Everything was top secret with Mr. O'Neill.

#1: Yea

#2: He always said...within these four walls....

#1: That's funny.

#2: No matter what he said...if it's a rainy day...it's within these four walls.

#1: I remember him. He had such pretty white hair.

#2: Yep. And he kept it clean. No cirrhoses.

#3: Psoriasis.

GILES

#2: All right. Uh...after Edna ~~Jewett~~ Fuller had made her opening remarks to a committee she would floor them with "ipso facto". I think she picked it up when she was sent to Tallahassee as a legislator, but she always said this "ipso facto this".....

#1: Did she really?

#2:and "ipso facto that" and I been trying to look it up for the last 45 years and I never have had time.

#1: Could it mean was a matter of fact or this....

#2: What?

#1: As a matter of fact or ... inaudible ...

#2: As a matter of fact, I'm sure.

#1: Yea. She was the ~~first~~ legislator...lady legislator from Orange County.....

#2: Yea..

#1:wasn't she?

#2: Yea, pretty good. She didn't know what the score was. Senator Walter Rose...."We've got to get our taxes down or we'll never get out of this depression." He oughta be around today.

#1: Sure, yea.

#2: Billy Glenn, once owner of the Orlando Sentinel,....."The utilities is Orlando's little gold mine." How true....how true

#1: Indeed.

MORRIS

#2: Colonel Johnson, who owned WDBO and the ~~Morse~~ Plant Bank,...."I have outlived all my enemies." John Shuman, editor of Reporter Star,....."Young men for action...old men for counsel." He use to eat free every Sunday night at Dewitt Miller's ... inaudible ... Hotel where Mr. Shuman was offered to be guest as an example of Orlando's intellectual culture.

#1: Who ate at night?

#2: Mr. John Shuman, he was editor of the paper.

#1: Oh.

#2: And he would talk a mumbo...jumbo that gave the appearance and

background of a great knowledge, you know, because he was an editor and when he got through you don't know what the hell he said.

#1: Yea...I have...yea. Well, they were just impressed.

#2: Yea. ~~Dewitt Miller...."Make your speeches nice and short."~~ Carl Dan....~~"I was born without a penny in my pocket. In fact I had no pocket"~~

#1: He's the one who wrote a book.

#2: Yes

#1: Didn't he write a book about ... inaudible ...

#2: Yea, yea, he wrote a book. It wasn't much better than that. "Show windows"....M.P. Al (?)...."Show windows sell more merchandise than any other form of advertising." How could he explain these shopping centers of the day....of today with few, if any, show windows. Julian Howard, I....~~"The big coons walk late."~~ That's in a poker game when he was moving a stack of chips.

#1: Oh, oh.

#2: Leroy Giles, railroad attorney....~~"If you let the Times Union use your carrier boys to sell and deliver their papers in Orlando, they will let their boys sell and deliver the Sentinel in Jacksonville."~~

#1: Good...

#2: Ernest Hemingway, at the Floridida Bar (restaurant in Havana)...~~"From Orlando, huh? I've seen some mighty good chicken fights up there."~~

#1: Oh, he went out to Orlo Vista.

#2: Uh huh....Charlie Bradshaw....yea, oh he knew all about Orlando.

#1: He did?

#2: For the chicken fights. ~~Charlie Bradshaw...."He's scratching where he doesn't itch."~~ Ed Ball, when he bought a piece of land from John Martin in Cocoa....I want it when we bought a piece of land in...from John Martin in Cocoa....~~"I wanted that piece of property," said Mr. Ball, "I don't have nearly enough Florida land."~~ That's it.

#1: Okay.

#2: How's that?

#1: That's great. Just great. Well, let's sum it all up somehow. Would

you have envisioned Orlando becoming the area that it is now?

#2: Never, never

#1: The so called action center.

#2: Never.

#1: You wouldn't?

#2: Wouldn't think it possible.

#1: What'd you think of it? The way things are today.

#2: Well, I'm disappointed.

#1: Why?

#2: I had a very pleasant living before. I had a reasonably safe way of living. I didn't have to lock my front gate or my back gate or put bars on my windows. It is true that if the town had not have grown I would not have gotten the high price for my properties.....

#1: True....true.

#2: But, after all you can only wear one pair of pants at the time. You can only eat one steak at a time and when you die the government's gonna get most of your money and your relatives, most of whom are dead, would get the rest of it.

#1: Uh huh.

#2: So what happens to it? What have you worked for? But...uh...the people now are looking for little places to live quiet and tranquil spots like Orlando was when I came here and walked down Orange Avenue to Lake Lucerne back then in 1931 and it isn't here and it isn't in Lakeland and it isn't in Miami.

#1: It's not in Florida, really.

#2: It's not in Florida.

#1: North Florida, maybe.

#2: The Florida is gone. They tell me now that...uh...Naples has taken the play away from Palm Beach as a social center, I don't know why. But... uh...I remember Naples when it was a nice place to go.....

#1: Yea

#2:you know, very picturesque and they had Greek restaurants that were...people came for miles to visit them. But the tragedy of Orlando, like a man said to me the other day...."Disney got the cream ...we got the scum."

#1: Uh huh.

#2: This man is building a small storage room for us with his own hands. He works hard. He's very...he's young...very competent. And...uh...

#3: What's his name?

#2: And I could see that he was bitter. You don't say....now I'm not bitter at Disney. Disney is a bunch of business people that'll go anywhere for a buck.

#1: inaudible after affects.....

#2: But he told me that...uh...his wife was home one day and a 15 year old boy came in with a stocking over his head and a gun in his hand and said...go in that bedroom and undress, I'm gonna rape you. She started to the room, but went out the door yelling and screaming and he got away. But they arrested him and they put him in jail for three days.

#1: And then he got out.

#2: And a truant officer went and investigated the case and said the boy had been brought up improperly and he deserved treatment.

#1: Uh huh.

#2: This fellow is.....

#1: Just one example.

#2:bitter....and his working right here. He'll be here tomorrow in the yard....working, you know, with his hands.

#1: He has a right to be bitter, yea.

#2:and...and he's no dummy he's got trucks and hires two or three fellows to help him....but he's not a big shot, you know. But...uh...he blames it on Disney. Well, you could blame it....in the old days when the strikers came to town your mother.....

#1: Yea.

#2:use to tell you to lock your doors.....

#1: Well, like when the.....

#2:when the strikers came to down.

#1:fair.

#2: The fair.

#1: Fair week. You know.....

#2: They'd have.....

#1:they're always going to bring in undesirables, you know.

#2: They have followers. They follow them in their train...and like the gypsies when they use to come. I don't know whether they ever had gypsies in Orlando or not. When the gypsies use to come to Greenwood, Mississippi and park down below our house.....

#1: Yea, we use to have them.

#2:in what we called the woods. You couldn't talk to them because they would...uh...it...well we didn't...I didn't have anything for them to steal, but they say that they would steal, see.

#1: So that's the...uh...tragedy of all this progress and.....

#2: That's right. That's what you get.

#1:prosperity.

#2: And you see it in every big city...New York.....

#1: Yea....

#2:Chicago.

#1:Orlando's no.....

#2: No.

#1:exception.

#2: It isn't now....we...we don't...we....I don't know whether we have more or not, but...uh...we certainly have our share.

#1: Yea. Well, it is frightening, you know, everybody is scared to death they're going to be burglarized and nobody goes downtown much anymore.

#2: No.

#1: So....

#2: But I wouldn't...uh...I wouldn't blame Disney. If it hadn't been Disney it would have been.....

#1: You never know.

#2:somebody else, wouldn't it?

#1: Yea, remember how everybody screamed when the Martin Company came to Orlando?

#2: Yea.

#1: You know that was going to be the end of Orlando. Some people thought.

#3: to far in background to understand

#1: That's true.

#2: But the Martin Company, I don't think they've caused any crimes, do you?

#1: No. People just thought that meant more....the population was gonna increase and more problems.

#2: But we had the kind of a town that...uh...now when I went to Europe back then...1930...you know, and didn't have anything to do...didn't have any job...messed around over there on a...a few dollars, you know.

#1: Were you married then?

#2: Yea. Took my wife and another couple. But...uh...when I talk about going to Europe like that it...it isn't...it wasn't a big deal. I mean I don't guess we spent over \$1,500.

#1: Is that right?

#2: Oh, yea. I mean....

#1: Yea

#2:like in the...in Monte Carlo we stayed at a fine hotel and we'd walk in the dining room....the only people there, see. And...uh...you could go in it and...uh...ask the rate. Leave your bags in the car, see.

#1: Yea. Oh gosh.

#2: And if...if the guy says.....

#1: Now you...you have to make plans months in.....

#2:the guy says \$10 bucks.....oh, no! That's too much. Well, how many are there. There's four of us. Well \$8 bucks. Well we'll get it for \$5 bucks. Two rooms, see...with food.

#1: Oh, that's hard to believe isn't it.

#2: I know. These tremendous hotels. Nobody was there. It was the depression. You never could do it again.

#1: No.

#2: So when I say I went to Europe, you know, that doesn't mean that I was over there just....we didn't...I don't think we spent over \$3,000... four people.

#1: And you...how long were you there?

#2: About 3 months. January, February, March.

#1: Yea. That's amazing.

#2: Two and a half months. It is amazing.

#1: Um....

#2: Well what I was gonna say...over there you find a little town out of Monte Carlo or some little place, you know, that...uh...oh, it just looked like it was a pleasant place to live. Where they'd have these pensions, you know.....

#1: Yea

#2:they don't call them hotels. And they would serve food with the rooms and...uh...on a lake, you know.

#1: Yea

#2: Gorgeous. What was the name of that place we liked that lake, Gracher, GRACIA, up there in Italy, where Moussolini was captured and shot?

#3: Lake Como.

#2: Lake Como.

#1: Yea

#2: Lake Como was a...an ideal spot.....

#1: To take pictures, yea.

#2: But I guess it's gone now, like the rest of them, see.

#1: Yea

#2: Oh the lake is...oh as big as Orlando. Looks like an ocean, see. You can ride around.

#1: Uh huh.

#2: But...uh...that's Orlando was.....

#1: Yea

#2:in those days. There wasn't any like it. Anyway.....

.....END OF INTERVIEW.....

#1: At the conclusion of this interview it was discovered that the population of Orlando in 1931 was approximately 25,000. Not 10,000 as stated. It was a combined circulation of the two newspapers that Mr. Anderson later bought that was 10,000. By way of comparison, it's interesting to note that the combined circulation of the Orlando newspapers was over a 140,000 at the time Mr. Anderson sold out in 1965 to the Chicago Tribune. Orlando's population at that time was more than 100,000.