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## Interview with Earl Hamilton Berkley (FA 3)

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Interviewer's tape no.: DW-84-1/2

WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer: Dianne Watkins

Address: 7513 Nashville Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Interviewee: Earl Berkley

Address: 671 Memphis Junction Rd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Date: October 9, 1984

Place of interview: In the den of Earl Berkley's home, 671 Memphis  
Junction Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101

Other people present: Earl Berkley's wife, Lucille Berkley.

Equipment used: Portable Cassette Recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:

Cassette: Brand: Scotch AVX 60 3M C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): All (Side 2): All

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:  
This transcription is in partial fulfillment for the Folklore  
Fieldwork and Oral History class. The topic is the Family Reunion.  
The main informant is Earl Berkley, who has been attending family  
reunions since 1929.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
003	<p>DW: Today is October 9, 1984. This is Dianne Watkins and I will be talking to Earl and Lucille Berkley about the Berkley family reunion.</p> <p>EB: Naw, you get over here so if you make an answer they can hear you.</p> <p>LB: I won't make an answer. (DW laughs)</p> <p>EB: You will if I ask you something.</p> <p>LB: No I won't. I'm going to sit right over here and.....</p>
004	<p>DW: Okay. Let's start at the beginning of who are the Berkleys. Did your father start the Berkley family reunion or your grandfather or what Berkley started the Berkley family reunion?</p>
007	<p>EB: Oh...the...probably my father's a brothers and sisters and him had the original. The first reunion we had that I can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manuscripts &amp; Folklife Archives Library Special Collections Western Kentucky University</p> <p>FA3, F2</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>recall was in 1929 and I was just a little kid and I was... we had been living in ah Nebraska. My father migrated to Nebraska when... before I was born.</p>
012	<p>DW: From where?</p> <p>EB: From Kentucky...and ah originally...if we want to go back to the ole original Berkley clan(EB clears throat) Excuse me. Jesse Nelson Berkley was my great-grandfather.</p>
	<p>DW: Well, was that with the E on the end?</p>
	<p>EB: B-E-R-K-E-L-E-Y. See, we are suppose to be a part of the ole governor Berkeley of Virginia...the ole Governor Berkeley that came from England and we are supposed to be descendants of his family. And they spell their name...the English spelling is E-L-E-Y. Ah, my grandfather as I recall it changed it to B-E-R-K-L-E-Y and everybody has been just Berkley since that time. Ah, but Jesse Nelson, that settled in Grayson County at the time... ah before my father was born and he homesteaded over there. They had several thousand acres. It's about six miles below Rough River Reservoir, if you know where it is. Have you ever been to Rough River Dam?</p>
	<p>DW: Yes. Yeah.</p>
025	<p>EB: Okay. It's down Rough River ah about half a mile from the river on Decker Creek. The Decker Creek flows into Rough River. They had the first post office over in that area. My grandmother, my great-grandmother...ah, ah she was a Reynolds. She married Jesse Nelson and she was educated rather well for people of that time, so they ran the post office in, in that area and it was down there on the old, old Berkley place. Now, he had a...several sons and the son that was ah my grandfather was James Asbury. Now, he moved up on the hill from the old Berkley place, still about a half a mile from Decker Creek and over in the same general area and he had ah oh, probably five hundred or so acres of ground. Now that ground is still in a cousin of mine's name, the ownership...or most of it. She and ah her husband...she married a Quiggins. Course she was a Berkley. And ah...they have...they are still over there and this is where some of the time we go for the reunion. Ah...James Asbury and a...part of his family were buried on that farm where my father was raised.</p>
	<p>DW: Hmmm.</p>
042	<p>EB: Big log house. They had a two story, one of those...it's similar to this one that you've got at Western.</p>
	<p>DW: The dogtrot? Does it have a center....</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
043	<p>EB: It had a large...much larger dogtrot than that. The dogtrot was large enough that we had beds in the hall, what we called the hall...or the breezeway. It had double doors, all the way through, but it was large enough that we had a double bed behind the double doors and you could open your double doors and still have...it was from the double door to the wall...you had room for a double bed.</p> <p>DW: And they slept in the summertime?</p> <p>EB: We stayed in there in the wintertime even.</p> <p>DW: In the breezeway. In the wintertime too?</p> <p>EB: Yeah, you see, you shut the...shut the doors and it was enclosed.</p> <p>DW: Yeah.</p> <p>EB: They were double doors.</p> <p>DW: Yeah.</p>
050	<p>EB: They weren't just single doors so it was, it was quite large...and the end rooms...it had then a room on each end. One was a bedroom, dress up area and the other end was your kitchen and your cooking area and then overhead, see you had rooms over each one of those individuals, so actually your talking about a six room house when it was completed.</p> <p>DW: But this was the site of the first reunion then?</p>
055	<p>EB: This is where...ah when we came back from.... I was born in ah Minnesota...in the lake country...Otter Tail county New York Mills, Minnesota in nineteen and twenty-one and that's where we were living at the time.</p> <p>DW: What date? What is your birth date?</p> <p>EB: September the twenty-seventh, I just had it so...ah, I'm the baby of the family.</p> <p>DW: Of how many?</p>
080	<p>EB: Of...three of the children had been born in Kentucky before we went up there and then three of us were born up there. There was Alta, the oldest and she's ten years older than me. She was born in 1911. Chester, the oldest son was born in 19 and 12 and then Emmett was born in 19 and 15 and he was born in Kentucky but then my father migrated up there. That was back when they were semi-homesteading. If you lived on a place so long and...and do certain things</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>it would become yours.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p> <p>087 EB: And they did this and ah then Arthur, the next oldest son was born in 19 and 18. He was born up there. And Josephine, ah Mrytle Josephine...Josephine as she goes by, is the one closest to me and ah she's born in 19'. And then I was born in 21'. So we lived there until my mother became...well she wasn't too well when I was born. Ah...she developed a cancer on her head and this was the result of a...an accident when she was a baby. One of the older children were rocking her in a rocking chair. They used to tie them on them pillows, you know, on a rocking chair and rock em', rocking her in front of the fireplace and they rocked her too heavy and the chair toppled over into the fireplace and ah...the top of her head was badly burned and never did completely heal and hair grow back over it. She always had... she had her hair in a bun on top of her head and she had a scar tissue there...and this cancer developed there in the later years.</p> <p>DW: And she was a young woman then....</p>
080	<p>EB: Yeah, she was thirty...thirty-five when she died. Thirty-four or thirty-five. I was eighteen months old...but anyway, after I was born up there, she became ill and my father then started...course, trying to find treatment and he wound up in Iowa. They had a special ah treatment center there in Cherokee, Iowa...cancer specialist and brought her there for treatment and but she was so weak they were not able to save her and she died...she was buried there.</p> <p>DW: That was 1923?</p> <p>EB: That was in 23'...uh huh. I was eighteen...about eighteen months old. I was suppose to have been eighteen, nineteen, seventeen...something like that. Course I don't remember my mother.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p>
091	<p>EB: My oldest sister then took over the job of you know, being a mother to me, more or less, but...uh...my father worked in some of the packing plants there in ah Fort Dodge and around in in Iowa and then we migrated on down to Sioux City and South Sioux City. Sioux City, Nebraska and South Sioux City, Sioux City, Iowa. Course it straddles the river...the northern part of its in Nebraska, the southern part's in Iowa and ah we lived there until ah I was about six, I guess...started to my first school....</p> <p>DW: Uh hmmm.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
099	<p>EB: And then ah my father found out that the old homeplace was vacant in Grayson county and ah we got in a big ole T-model truck and hooked a trailer behind it and loaded up all of our furnishings that he could move and...we had three goats. Ah...let's see: Billy, Marcy and Nanny. (DW laughs) Ah...and we brought them to Kentucky with us. The ole homeplace had been...nobody had been living in it and it was just grown up...and more or less abandoned. You know how farms can become. It had a lot of real well ah... laying land. It layed real good but ah everybody had gone to town...everybody had gone to the city and ah we moved there on the place then to...to...guess we worked there... and about a year after we got there...at least in 1929... I'm pretty sure it's right...they had a reunion. Since we had come back and a lot of the other Berkleys were scattered around so they came and we had the first reunion that I remember as a Berkely. That was a Berkley reunion.</p> <p>DW: So basically [EB: basically] the reunion of the Berkleys began when you all came back....</p> <p>EB: Yes, primarily [DW: to Kentucky] because we didn't know what kinfolks were. We were so fascinated by kinfolks.... (DW laughs) ah we'd been living up north where they didn't... they're not as...uh...as much on family as we are in southerners, you know.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p>
118	<p>EB: We didn't know what kinfolk were other than hearing Papa talk about them and ah we always call them Mama and Papa... at least ah that's the normal terms we use but then after we got there we were so fascinated by our cousins and and our aunts and our uncles and then uh some of my mother's ah...on my mother's side, quite a few of them of course came so we had...it was quite a...it was at the Berkely place....and it was quite a homecoming. And this ah went on for some time. That was the only reunion that we had. My father was killed in a farm accident in Illinois when I was nine so that was not too long after that. See that was in 30'.</p> <p>DW: Did your father decide to put together that first reunion or....?</p>
127	<p>EB: I really don't know how it came about. I think it was sorta a...uh...spontaneous sort of a thing... [DW: His brothers and sisters] they different ones probably wanted to come and they just sorta got organized so they'd get to see each other....</p> <p>DW: Right.</p>

FA3, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
130	<p>EB: ....because I had an aunt that was here in Bowling Green or was living in Bowling Green recently until she died. She was a schoolteacher and she'd been teaching up in the mountains and you know, they were scattered all over. She taught in eastern part of Kentucky quite a bit and ah they just got organized and...so they could all come at the same time and see each other and and you know, that's... I don't know who really started it.</p> <p>DW: Yeah.</p> <p>(Phone rings. Mrs. Berkley leaves the room to answer it.)</p> <p>DW: How many brothers and sisters did you have? How many....</p> <p>EB: There's four boys and two girls.</p> <p>DW: And they were all living at that first reunion...all your brothers and sisters....</p> <p>EB: Oh yes, they still are.... They all still are uh huh...</p> <p>DW: That's great.</p>
138	<p>EB: Chester was the one that was just here. He's my oldest brother. He's retired. And Alta, the oldest sister that was my mother has...as far as I knew a mother...uh...she married a Methodist minister and uh...of course at the time my father...he was injured. Had his back broken. He was working hay. They use to ah haul hay loosely... stacked it. They had these big wide racks and they forked it on the wagon. Just stacked it high as they could and this was...he was up on the load of hay and ah they ran over, going along some of those plank fences. He was working in Illinois...just outside of Chicago, I and ah...they ran over some kind of a ditch or something... and uh pitched him off and a bunch of the hay off and he landed on this plank fence on his back. Course it broke his back and at that time they couldn't do the things they do now and he lived...he lived for two weeks but he died.</p> <p>DW: Oh my.</p>
152	<p>EB: And none of us got to go see him. That was during the Depression...nobody could go anywhere. [DW: Oh my]. Nobody could afford to go anywhere. None of the children got to visit but uh...I was nine and I...that's when I went and lived with my oldest sister for about six months, while he was ill and after he died. Then course we all scattered more or less...uh...went to different homes and the older ones went out on their own you know.</p> <p>DW: How many brothers and sisters did your father have?</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
159	<p>EB: Uh...seven of them...</p> <p>DW: Were they included in that first...they were included in that first family reunion?</p> <p>EB: Oh yes [DW: And the cousins] we had a 1-2-3-4-5... there were seven. That's right. There was seven children. The oldest was born in ah 1874 and ah the youngest was born in 1890. And they were ah Aunt Annie...you want to know this?</p> <p>DW: Okay. That's fine. Yes.</p> <p>EB: Aunt Ida. And their full names would be different but this is what we knew them by...</p> <p>DW: Uh huh. Right.</p>
167	<p>EB: Uncle Frank and Aunt Emma, the one that was here in Bowling Green, the schoolteacher. Uh Uncle Nelson who worked in the coal mines down around Rochester...down in that section [DW: Uh huh] And uh...John, my father was next to the youngest and then Uncle Russell was the youngest, (LB says something that is indistinguishable in background) and they all...they are all dead now. And Aunt Annie, I guess she lived to be the oldest (EB turns to LB) What was she...anout ninety-three or what was she when she died?</p> <p>LB: She was way up there. I don't remember.</p> <p>EB: But my father died the youngest. Course he died by accident.</p> <p>DW: But now those...those seven brothers and sisters were in that first reunion in 1929?</p>
177	<p>EB: Aunt Ida had just died when we came back from...as we came back from ah Iowa on this tour...took us nearly two weeks to get here by truck, course you know what you did [DW: uh huh] We had to ah...take ferries across the rivers and ford some big streams and you wouldn't believe what we came through back then. The roads were just... you know, they weren't...there weren't any roads....</p> <p>DW: There weren't any expressways were there?</p>
183	<p>EB: There sure weren't...and ah...Aunt Ida uh, next to the oldest aunt...was ill when we got here. She lived in Hartford or below Hartford, down here in Ohio county, little place called Beda and then my father went and visited her several times then she took real seriously ill not too long after that and I think she died...uh</p>



COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
189	<p>not too long before the reunion. And that's probably another thing that it caused them to want to get together. [DW: Um hmmm] Course the brothers and sisters got to see each other there but the families didn't. I didn't get to go to her funeral. See, money was non-existent and transportation was horseback.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p> <p>EB: You just didn't get around much so uh she was the only one that wasn;t able to be there and ah....</p> <p>DW: Was that in the summertime? Was it.... do you remember.....</p>
195	<p>EB: Yes, it was in warm weather. Now I don't know whether it was spring or fall or really...but it was in comfortable weather cause I remember we were running around, you know, in shirt sleeves and that type thing but uh see I was eight so uh and awed by all of it [DW: Right] because everybody was a stranger to me you know...other than they say, "I'm so and so." So ah it was...it was a...it was nice weather and uh I...let's see...I don't think..... who could tell what time of year it was. My oldest brother that was here could of...could tell you because he was you know at that time...he was in his teens you know [DW: uh huh] But a...it was just more or less a spontaneous type thing. People...a lot of them brought food and then they cooked stuff while they were there and I think we killed a goat. By that time our goat herd had...I guess we had twenty-five or thirty goats. (DW laughs) Ah other than just eating them we just... and we milked them.</p>
210	<p>They were good milk goats. That's the earliest milking I've done was goats. [DW: ...was goats] Course it's the healthiest milk I guess that humans could consume other than human milk but ah we had let them expand to try and clean up the farm and one of my jobs while we were living there uh my ol...my second brother closest to me, Arthur...and Josephine, the sister between us and myself's main job was watching the goats. (DW laughs)</p> <p>We had one cow with a bell on and the goats would stay with her. So our job was to... see, we didn't have fence around the farm...course you had several hundred acres but still they can just keep going in the wrong direction and wind up on the road or somewhere else so, our main job was just to keep them on the farm. And keep them away from corn if we had a corn patch or something. Keep them out of the corn. (DW laughs) So we more or less watched the goats and this...quite at odd times.</p>

F A 3

F 2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
224	<p>EB: And while we were there my father built a modern chicken house and we had a leghorn hens and sold eggs but you know eggs got so cheap you couldn't give them away so we had eggs to eat but ah...and it became difficult to...accept for the corn and the stuff you raised, it became difficult to buy supplies for the chickens. [DW: Huh] You just... nobody bought anything you know. You'd sell...seems like eggs were about 4¢ a dozen...5, something like that.</p> <p>DW: And that probably even seemed like a lot...in a way.</p> <p>EB: Yeah, it did, but it was difficult to pay for [DW: Right] Course then my father got killed see, just about this time so that made us have to just abandon.... It was a real modern chicken house...he even had feed bins up in the loft part of it with chutes going down...you know... running the feed down. You've seen horse stalls built like that....</p> <p>DW: Yeah...yeah.</p>
237	<p>EB: Right down to their, their eating places and they had enclosed nests and had overhead roost poles, concrete foundation to keep the rodents out and rats.</p> <p>DW: Yeah.</p> <p>EB: He put the concrete down in the ground deep enough that rats wouldn't go under it. It was...and had scratch bins outside with this.....we used to have isinglass...it was a semi-transparent...sort of opaque type stuff. It had wax on it. It's a whole lot like waxed paper really only it was cloth and you put that around in the wintertime, around your outside exercise area to keep them warm and give them a place to go out....</p> <p>DW: So they'd continue to lay....</p> <p>EB: Yeah, so they'd continue to lay and it was real modern. Except of course, he didn't get to live to appreciate it.</p> <p>DW: Um hmmm. How long was it from that time before there was another reunion?</p>
250	<p>EB: The next major reunion I can remember.... do you know the date (EB looks to LB) that ah...that they had the big one whenever ah George came home, Lucille?</p> <p>LB: Ah...just a minute.....</p> <p>EB: Vicki was a.....</p> <p>LB: About 55'.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
257	<p>EB: Okay, it's about 1955 that they had the next major one. This is when a cousin of mine...this is Uncle Frank... our oldest bro--our oldest uncle...ah...his son...now he was the one that owned...he wound up and bought the ole Berkley place, the James Asbury place,, not the Jesse Nelson.....</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p> <p>EB: See, Jesse Nelson had some other sons besides James Asbury and one of them had married a Gary and ah the ole homeplace down under the hill where the ole post office had been wound up in the hands of this descendant group [DW: uh huh.] So ah...and it still belongs to one of the Garys [DW: uh huh] Course they were cousins of my father and mother's but ah...the ah...the time that we had this other big reunion and big get-together. And if there's any in between, I just don't recall them.</p> <p>LB: There wasn't any of the Landrums, in between?</p>
272	<p>EB: Ah, there weren't...they were sorta get-togethers...but I don't remember us having any [DW: A small group, more of a small group...] Uh huh, but the big thing was a cousin of ours had been in ah Utah. He'd been out there since he got out of school and he's just a little older than me. George...like I say, he's Uncle Frank's son, and he was coming home...first time he'd been home...goodness, in years and years. Fifteen...ten years, I guess, anyhow, so Lillian, which is Uncle Frank's oldest daughter, that married the Quiggins and now lives on the ol...part of the ole Berkley place...ah...she got together and got to calling people and got in contact with as many as she could-- (EB clears throat) so we had a...quite a large group there at that time and then since that it's been fairly regular... ah...for a while. Aunt Emma, the one that lived here in Bowling Green...ah...they decided to start having it on her birthday...or near the Sunday nearest her birthday which is the last Sunday in ah July...wasn't it Lucille?</p> <p>LB: The last day of July....</p> <p>EB: Okay.</p> <p>LB: (In the background, indistinguishable.)</p>
293	<p>EB: They had it the closest Sunday to her birthday and ah... course her children. She was the Landrum...so it became at that time the Berkley-Howard-Landrum reunion. See, part of the Berkley girls married Howards and part of them...on of them, married a Landrum. [DW: Uh huh] Course and all of their descendants became a part of it. [DW: Right.]</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
300	<p>EB: And ah...course, this is the way its been named and has gone on rather regularly. Now, after her death, about a... what...it's been fifteen years (EB to LB) ago?</p> <p>LB: Something like that. I don't know exactly.</p> <p>EB: Ah...they decided to move it to a...Labor Day. Course that's the last main holiday of the year and its close to the same date we was having it. And it gave people from out of town a longer weekend to get here.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p>
308	<p>EB: Like we had ah two years ago. We had ah one cousin from California and we have them from Michigan quite consistently. We have them from Florida and of course we have them from Indiana and Illinois and Tennessee, you know, that type of thing as a rule...but ah, they moved it to the Labor Day weekend to give people more travelling time and that's...it's stayed on that for, I guess, ten to fifteen years. It's been quite consistently. Ah...we had it regularly, over on the Quiggins-Berkley farm that the Quiggins now live on.</p> <p>Lillian Berkley married a Quiggins so ah he's a marvellous person and from a marvellous family...and you know he's just part of us. [DW: Uh huh.] And everybody's quite at home with them and they lived on...ah...a branch of the Berkley farm. See, my grandfather was on part of it and then he had a cousin that lived on part of it too and they're living in the house that he had lived in.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p>
329	<p>EB: The ole...the ole house that my...Jesse ah James Asbury built. Now, he built this log house...and I was describing while ago. Ah, it wasn't modern enough and this other one was a more...a modern house. It was a weather boarden house, you know, now we [DW: Right.] we'd... we'd pick the log house and re-do it.</p> <p>DW: Pull the clapboard off....</p>
336	<p>EB: Yeah, they didn't want to go to the expense of fixing it up. It had a large back porch on that house besides the other rooms and then had a side room that they had used for a kitchen, that had been built on and the side room was not log. It was a...it was just a regular siding type with weather boarding on it. But the porch and the overhang was...made a quite a large...quite a large, you know, house for that time.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
344	<p>EB: But anyway, it had become quite dilapidated. Still had a wood shingle roof on it...the ole original type roof and everything and they started using it for a tobacco barn and ah moved into this more modern built house that ah had belonged to a cousin of my father and it's on part of the same acreage. His son now, Quiggins's son, Paul, is a rather successful hog farmer, he's large scale and does a good job. But anyway, we started meeting there. That's where we had the first reunion.</p> <p>DW: In 55'?</p> <p>EB: With her brother [DW: In 55'?] Uh huh.</p> <p>DW: Is that Quiggins, Q-U-I-G-G.....</p> <p>EB: I-N-S.</p> <p>DW: I-N-S. Quiggins.</p> <p>EB: Everett and Lillian Quiggins.</p> <p>DW: Well, you all were able to go then in 1955?</p>
359	<p>EB: Oh yes...we ah...course we've gone consistently. We've missed very few, haven't we? (Looks to Lucille. LB response is undistinguishable.) There's a couple of times...the one time they took it...they had it up in Michigan. Course, quite a few of my Aunt Annie's clan... and she had ah nine children...I believe that was right. Ah...they went to Michigan...most of them, or a lot of them. And course, they're still scattered all over Michigan so they wanted to have it up there, so the year they had it up there, something happened, we didn't get to go. And they had it one time in Indiana and I had ah...one of Aunt Annie's daughters lived near the Bloomington campus there in Indiana. You know where the school is?</p> <p>DW: Yeah, I do.</p> <p>EB: Okay and ah they had it there. Was it just once didn't they Lucille?</p> <p>LB: I think just once.</p>
374	<p>EB: And then ah...these...they'd have it and then they'd go back to Kentucky, back over Lillian's and a course, it's quite a thing to fix for it and that give her a little rest.</p> <p>One time they had it on Kentucky Lake and of course a</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>bunch of people got lost trying to find it. (DW laughs.) You know, it's hard to find something in a place like that... [DW: Right.] So ah...then they moved it back over there and they have a community center now at Yeaman, which is about two miles from Everett's and Lillian's. Ah...there in Grayson county. Course, Yeaman was where I lived after my gran--after my father was killed.</p>
386	<p>DW: What's the spelling on that?</p>
	<p>EB: Y-E-A-M-A-N. You know where Caneyville is?</p>
	<p>DW: Uh huh.</p>
	<p>EB: You know where Short Creek is?</p>
	<p>DW: Uh huh. Well, I know where Caneyville is.</p>
389	<p>EB: Okay. Yeaman is six miles beyond Caneyville. Short Creek is also about six miles. Short Creek is directly on the road to Rough River Reservoir. Ah...Yeaman would be off to the left six miles...from Short Creek. And I used to walk from Yeaman to Short Creek. [DW: Hmmm.] See, Short Creek had a high school and Big Clifty and Leitchfield and Caneyville and Yeaman, Horse Branch...ah...we used to play ball with all of them...basketball...see, all those in that part. Johnny Oldham's Hartford [DW: Yeah] was in our district but we didn't play him while I was in school. We played Beaver Dam but not...not him...so... he and I were in school at the same time so I didn't really get to know him. Course I knew he was one of the big whizzes, you know, (DW laughs.) but we didn't see him in person.</p>
406	<p>But anyway, the reunion migrated back primarily to, to Lillian's. Ah...they built the community center at Yeaman at the church. They have a community type church that several denominations use and a fairly large graveyard there where most everyone you know from around there is buried in that area and this is where I...Yeaman is where I lived with my grandparents. My grandfather Patterson. My mother was a Patterson and ah whenever my gran--my father died, I was nine, I went there and stayed until I was about, I guess I was about thirteen...and my grandmother died. She was my step-grandmother. Actually my grandmother had been dead quite some time and he had married again. And she died, and he was not too well so he went to live with one of his sons.</p>
425	<p>So I wound up without a place to go again. So I</p>

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

farmed out in one of the Downey farms...belong to a Downey...a one armed man. No one to take care of his farm. He had a good farm and good horses and stuff and none of his boys like farming so I wound up and lived there until I got out of high school. So I more or less worked my way through high school. I graduated there at Yeaman...next to the last class that graduated there. [DW: Hmmm.] And then they consolidated Yeaman with Caneyville and Short Creek went to Caneyville, you know and now they've just got one school in the whole county [DW: Yeah.] Grayson County High School but there was six when I was going. [DW: Hmmm.] So ah but the Yeaman...ah community center which was just a short ways from where I lived there with my parents.

443

I lived in the post office building. My grandmother owned the building that the post office ah rented. They rented it from her...the government did for use of a post office. [DW: Hmmm.] We lived in one part of it and the post office was in the other and I, like I say, I lived there until she died. And the community center that they built up there...we had the reunion there, what two or three times, Lucille?

LB: More than that.

EB: Three or four and it was quite unsatisfactory. It was built on a semi-hillside and ah...they didn't have it grassed down. It was in ah semi-wooded area but it was just enough woods to keep the grass from growing (DW laughs) you know, dirty and and place for the kids to play and there wasn't, you know, any recreation so they discontinued and....

461

DW: Who was planning the reunion about that time?

EB: Well, they...we elected...for sometime now, they have elected a president [DW: Uh huh.] each year. Ah...usually it's one of the descendants...not necessarily. Quiggins was a time or two [DW: Um hmmm.] but somebody that's consistent and somebody that's interested. [DW: Um hmmm.]

470

And then it's his job to, you know, to get things together for the next one. Now at each meeting you vote where you're going to have the next one and then there might be change but generally it sticks, somebody gets sick or something...but ah...with the president and a secretary to handle the finances. [DW: Uh huh.] Course you just have a freewill offering. People giving money and if there's something needs to be gotten, well they buy it...ah cold drinks and things of that nature. It's potluck...everybody bring.....

END OF SIDE ONE

FA3

F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	BEGIN SIDE TWO OF TAPE DW-84-1
	DW: ....through the year.
001	EB: Our secretary's main job...she's secretary and treasurer. They did have both but it's combined now. And ah...they use to change it every year....
	DW: Did that start about 1955, and having someone in charge more or less?
	EB: I don't remember the first year that we elected a president. Do you, Lucille?
	LB: No....
004	DW: But, who kinda put it together about that time? Emma, you mentioned. Was she the one that kinda....
	EB: Probably the thing that...the driving force that a was as much as anything...Aunt Emma and her family...her children ah keep a...to keep them coming for her birthday and to have the reunion combined. Ah...they were probably, don't you imagine:...them and Lillian. [EB looks to LB] I would say Lillian and Everett too were [DW: Uh huh] the high force in it....
	DW: And at that time was it already Berkley, Howard and Landrum by that time?
011	EB: We...I don't know when we officially set that up but it was shortly after [DW: Yeah] yeah, when we started going...course all of them were invited. All the time before but when they decided to have an official name. And I don't know when that first happened but it's been some time [DW: Yeah] since it's been Howard-Landrum because you know, the Landrum...the children were great big grown by that time [DW: Yeah] so...it had been called the Berkley reunion but I don't know exactly when they brought...they thought in advance and stuff...it's nicer to have the names of all the kids. And not only this though...but we're having now, descendants of...of Birt Berkley and ah ah some of the Garys that are my grandfather's brother's descendants...see what I mean....
	DW: Yeah...going back [EB: Uh huh] picking up more than....
020	EB: Yeah, see Birt Berkley's grandfather was Jesse Nelson just like ah my father's grandfather was. [DW: Yeah] Birt and my father were cousins...ah but a.....
	DW: Is that B-U or B-E?



COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
022	<p>EB: B-I-R-T.</p> <p>DW: B-I-R-T.</p> <p>EB: And he settled in southern Illinois and they even have a family reunion just for his immediate family up there too. But his...ah he had two sons that normally come rather regularly to ours. And then there was another one that lives close to Olaton down there that's from ah another one of Jesse Nelson's sons. Another brother of James Asbury which was my grandfather. Ah...they have been to one or two of the reunions when they had it over in Yeaman...you know, over there close.</p>
029	<p>DW: Uh huh. You said "Olaton?"</p> <p>EB: "Olaton," uh huh.</p> <p>DW: O-L-A-T-I-N?</p> <p>EB: O-L-A-T-O-N. O-L-A-T-O-N....</p> <p>DW: "Olaton."</p> <p>EB: Uh huh. It's ah...Yeaman is the garden spot of the world. From Yeaman, it's six miles to Olaton, it's six miles to Springlick, it's six miles to Shortcreek.... (DW and LB laugh.) ...in a circular. [DW: Yeah.] Ah...let's see. Do you know where Brandenburg is? [DW: Yeah.] Over on the river. [DW: Yeah.] Okay. See this....</p> <p>DW: Doe Run Inn. Isn't that in Brandenburg?</p> <p>EB: I don't know.</p> <p>DW: Have you ever heard of Doe Run?</p>
036	<p>EB: Brandenburg is on beyond us [DW: Yeah.] over close to the river. [DW: Yeah, yeah.] And ah we use to play basketball some [DW: Um hmmm.] and ah....but anyway, Yeaman is sort ah centrally located in the sticks over there, you know. Now, they had Heights Falls which is a little falls of Rough River, right below the Falls of Rough. The Falls of Rough is where the dam is built, right above it. [DW: Right.] And then down close to the ole Berkley place they had Heights Falls which is just a little...about a three or four foot falls.</p> <p>DW: But H-E-I-G-H, like height.</p> <p>EB: Uh huh.</p> <p>DW: Heights Falls.</p>

FA3

F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
043	<p>EB: Yeah. And ah...then the Berkley farm was about a mile from Heights Falls. And they...it was on Decker Creek. Decker Creek is one of the main tributaries that fed into Rough River...right below Heights Falls. [DW: Um hmmm]</p> <p>But this is, you know, still, the ole part of the old home site. That's the house that James Asbury built was on one of the highest hills in that part of the country. It's tremendously high...plateau. You get up on top of it, it levels off [DW: Huh.] and he built right on the edge of this tall, steep slope where it leveled off up there...that's where he built his home.</p> <p>DW: And that house is still there?</p> <p>EB: Yeah.</p> <p>DW: Is it still there?</p>
050	<p>EB: No, that's the one that they...that's the ole log house. I didn't get to finish telling you that. Now he's buried there and ah...grandmother and all my aunts. There's about four buried there on the...they had a family plot there [DW: Uh huh.] on the farm [DW: Uh huh.] started. Course by the time the rest of them...time for them to be buried, they had become restrictive about having sites like that but it's still maintained...and we still.... [DW: Go.] We still take care of it. It's got the... they had above ground rocks original and ah, we, a part of our group, paid for putting new modern flat surface rocks so...when they farm it, you know, they can mow and keep it clean. [DW: Yeah.] Otherwise, it was getting difficult.... [DW: Yeah.] The tall stones...you couldn't care for. Tall stones then were laid down flat and buried to keep them to maintain ah...not lose the stones, you know.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh. When did they...when did you do that?</p>
062	<p>EB: We did that when we were having it over at Lillians about ah (LB in background, indistinguishable.) Yeah, but it was...it's been....</p> <p>LB: I'd say it's been ten years ago....</p> <p>EB: Ten or fifteen-- [LB: No, it hadn't been that long.] It's probably been ten or twelve years ago.</p> <p>DW: Well, approximately how many years did they have it at the center? From what--from 1955?</p> <p>EB: No, they didn't....</p> <p>DW: No....</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
067	<p>EB: They didn't always have it at the center. They'd go back to Lillian's a time or two. It wasn't regularly-- [LB: We had it over there, I'd say four...] two or three times in a row and then skip-- [LB: Four or five times, not too many.] [DW: Huh. Uh huh.] and it became...it, it it caused it to keep going down, down.</p> <p>When they found out it was going to be at the center, a lot of people didn't come because it's inconvenience-- [DW: huh. Uh huh.] it didn't have a...it's not as good a facility.</p> <p>DW: It's just a pavilion basically, probably then, wasn't it?</p> <p>EB: Yes, it was ah...like the...like you have community centers, you know..... [DW: Yeah.] just an open shelter like... Warren County's got some.</p> <p>DW: Yeah.</p> <p>EB: It was enclosed-- [LB: It was a building--] it was enclosed...naw, it was enclosed but it was a concrete block a...just a shotgun type building...you know...a long and [DW: Uh huh.] narrow-- [LB: Well, the building was okay--] Yeah-- [LB: but the grounds] [DW: Yeah.] Main thing was the grounds. It was built on a slope and it's, it's shaley rock and [DW: Yeah.] you know, the rocks on top of the ground and grass just... it was just not a nice place to have something like that. [DW: Yeah.] (EB coughs) for outside activity.</p>
078	<p>DW: But...but even then you began to organize and someone was appointed as-- [EB: Oh, they were...yes--] [LB: All the time.] that was going on-- [EB: regularly before that.] I would say that started ah...consistently ah... probably in a...the early sixties or late fifties Uh huh.</p> <p>EB: And a that was...it's been regular ever since that they've had somebody responsible. The secretary sends out cards with the date and the place usually about a month before to everybody that has been before and we try to keep, you know, update your list. Ah, it's not sent necessarily to everybody that would be eligible because you don't have everybody's addresses but the people that have come...say the past four or five years.</p>
087	<p>My daughter was secretary a time or two and they try to keep it updated, [DW: Uh huh.] and mail out. She mailed out what (Looks to LB) one hundred or some cards? [LB: Yeah.] To different families and groups and we</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>had a hundred fifteen of course this last year. Uh... year before last they had about eighty-five to ninety and then the year before that they had about a hundred fifteen or twenty.</p> <p>DW: Uh hhh. About what year was it moved to Labor Day weekend? What year was that?</p> <p>EB: When my aunt died and she's been dead fifteen years, hasn't she, Lucille?</p> <p>LB: I guess (the rest of the phrase is indistinguishable.)</p> <p>EB: She has a daughter. Her children live here in town and probably you ought to talk with them...one of them... ah Eugenia would be a good one to talk with. Eugenia is the youngest that lives ah...Eugenia Hendricks and she lives here in town and ah you probably need to talk with her to get some of Aunt Emma's specifics, you know.</p> <p>DW: What Hendricks is that?</p>
100	<p>EB: Well, she's-- [LB: Listed under Eugenia.] just Eugenia. Her husband's dead. He ran the used car lot out on the Louisville Road [DW: Uh huh.] right where the interstates join in the road and they had to sell. They bought her property so she's moved to town. She lives on West Meade, is it? (EB looks to LB.) Or Dean... West Meade...</p> <p>LB: No, Virginia.</p> <p>EB: Oh, that's right. She's on Virginia. Okay... Yeah.</p> <p>DW: So now the secretary does the mail out...where's it's going to be and any-- [LB: They been doing that for quite a few years.]</p> <p>EB: Yeah...they been doing that for twenty years or more I'd say.</p> <p>DW: And about when do they mail it?</p> <p>EB: About a month ahead of time.</p>
107	<p>DW: About a month ahead of time? Then do you send back in a little note--do people send back in and let you know who's coming?</p> <p>EB: Not necessarily-- [LB: Sometimes they do.] We'll get correspondence but it's not...they're not required. Of course, they do what they want. Some people call you and this one from California that was coming, he wrote</p>

FA3 F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

110

us a letter and said he was going to try and come  
 [DW: Uh huh.] and we hadn't seen him, you know, since  
 he was a kid... [DW: Uh huh.] I hadn't. But ah...it's  
 usually about a month ahead of time and they'll correspond  
 with her generally now...sometimes now since they know  
 us personally, I mean, they know us...it's been here for  
 three years now regular...uh...they'll send us a letter...  
 maybe but ah course they know...they know they got her  
 address so they send it to her.

DW: And your daughter, Diane-- [EB: She is...she's building  
 up a resume' of trying to run down all the ancestry--]  
 Uh huh. [and tracing down trees and she's got this book  
 full of it.] (Refers to notebook in his lap.) Uh huh.  
 Is this your only child?

EB: No, Carolyn's our oldest. That's Carolyn on the left,  
 Diane on the right (EB points to pictures on the fireplace.)  
 Carolyn's married and got ah three children and Diane is  
 not married. Well, she's married but she's [DW: Yeah]  
 not any more.

DW: Yeah. Okay...Uh, so the last three years you all had it  
 here.

EB: It's been here, yes.

125

LB: Well now, Diane is not the secretary-- [DW: Okay. Yeah.]  
 she was at one time-- [DW: Right.] But she's doing the  
 family tree for you all, right?

EB: We have another cousin, ah Myrtle Howard is married a  
 Richardson. Now this is Aunt Ida...the one that died  
 early. This is her oldest daughter. Uh...she has--she  
 has a lot of...she started the records [DW: Uh huh.]  
 system and her health's not been too good for the last  
 several years and ah she and Diane rather work together  
 on this but she has a lot of the old documents, pictures  
 and stuff too [DW: Uh huh.] and ah, she's a got her own  
 family tree that she had run up in the shape of a tree.  
 Ah...Diane's got it in a column type thing [DW: Uh huh.]  
 you know, and she displays it. Now when we have a reunion  
 usually this is all displayed and everybody's encouraged  
 if they have information about somebody [DW: Right.]  
 ah, dates, children, new children born [DW: Right.]  
 and this type thing, to turn it in to us--to her.

139

And our secretary course keeps up with who's there.  
 Everybody gets a nameplate with ah...like Earl Berkley,  
 son of John Berkley is what mine would be-- [DW: Yeah.]  
 because you know, you don't know everybody. [DW: Right.]  
 And this connects you up...back to home base. [DW: Right.]

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
142	<p>And ah...you might be ah John William's grandson of--            [DW: Uh huh.] of James Asbury or something of that nature.</p> <p>DW: And the secretary prepares those? Or do you...when you, when you arrive...do you put on your own card?</p> <p>EB: You put it on. She gives you a card and a pin on... cellophane cover-- [DW: Uh huh.] and you put the connection you are to the, to the reunion and ah... you might be the wife of...or you know...son of or grandson of or sometimes friends...we have friends that come. "Friend of so and so." We have ah one cousin comes from Owensboro that's for a friend... well, his wife...it's actually his wife's ah brother's wife--isn't it? (EB to LB.)</p> <p>LB: Right.</p>
152	<p>EB: And she got started coming and she comes almost regular as-- (LB indistinguishable.)</p> <p>DW: (Laughs) So you let invited guests come, huh?</p> <p>EB: Oh yes...oh yes.... (Rest of reply is indistinguishable.)</p> <p>DW: How bout' the minister. Does your pastor usually come?</p> <p>EB: Not normally. The ah...you know, we have a blessing at the meal and stuff like that. We had some problems... several years ago. They tried to bring in preaching and stuff like that but you don't have time for that and-- [DW: Right.] There's a time and a place for everything.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p>
158	<p>EB: It's not the time for a revival meeting-- [DW: Right.] because people are busy talking.</p> <p>DW: You want to spend that time talking to each other.</p> <p>EB: That's right.</p> <p>LB: You don't have that much time anyhow.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p>
160	<p>EB: It's not that your trying to get Christianity out-- [DW: No...no, no.] It's just you're trying to mix it see. You're trying to get it in there.</p> <p>DW: Is there a minister in the family? Do you call on different</p>

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

ones or...you mentioned you have the blessing. Is it always the same one or.... [EB: No, no.] different ones?

163

EB: No, the president...ah...I was president this year and I was president last year--no, last year there was somebody else president and I filled in for him, wasn't it? (EB looks to LB.) My cousin was-- (LB indistinguishable) He didn't want to do it and he wanted me to do it-- [LB: No...he didn't get to come.] Brown didn't get to come last year?

LB: Huh uh.

EB: Brown was here last year but he didn't want to do the-- (DW laughs.) Right? (EB to LB.)

LB: He came the first year we had it.

EB: Okay.

LB: The next year he was supposed to be president and he did not come. (DW laughs.)

168

EB: Okay, that's right. He did not show up but anyway...naw, the president simply calls on someone to have the blessing.

DW: Um hmmm. Um hmmm.

EB: Ah...we normally form a large friendship circle. And it's quite large when you got a hundred and fifteen people in it.

DW: Yeah. At the beginning...before the meal?

172

EB: Naw, this is when we have the meal-- [DW: Okay...at the beginning--] at the [DW: Just before the meal... yeah.] Yeah...see...normally they start coming in nine, ten o'clock-- [DW: Yeah.] and by noon...ah usually we don't get to eat between 12:30 and 1:00, by the time they...some people go to church even here in town then-- [DW: Yeah.] and you know, try to make it so ah they try to wait as late as they can-- [DW: Right.]

178

Then they form the friendship circle and of course then, we count off. That's one way you know how many's there. But each person counts off.... 1-2-3-4-5.... (DW laughs.) See, you just keep going around and come back where you started.

DW: (Laughs.) Oh! That's fun!

FA3

F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

181

EB: And you're holding hands-- [DW: Uh huh.] and we try to hold hands in the friendship circle for the prayer and ah, we have a memorial service for those who are not any longer with us.

DW: Now is that during that time or....?

EB: Ah...usually that is when we have the business meeting-- [DW: Later--after the meal--okay.] After the lunch, uh huh.

DW: But the...friendship circle is just before-- [EB: Just before the meal.] Okay, you count off and then ask the blessing and then...

186

EB: That's the time to get everybody's attention-- [DW: Yeah.] And ah then to explain ah just this last year we bought silverware. Everybody bringing silverware and then plastic and it's breaking-- [DW: Yeah.] so Lucille and our secretary got their heads together and found some good stainless steel-- [DW: Yeah.] ah...and bought ah enough so that, you know, we have enough for everybody-- [DW: Yeah.] and then ah we re-use it every year of course. Use paper plates. We use Western cups, by the way. (DW laughs.) When I'm at the games we...course we started doing that. She's got two or three hundred of those [DW: Great.] and we re-use them but-- [DW: Great!] but the picnic area over there now...I have two drink boxes over there, electric drink boxes, where I keep the drinks cool and stuff-- [DW: Uh huh.] so it works out real nice-- [DW: Uh huh.]

197

Use to have to get ice-- [DW: Yeah.] and start them and late in the day, your ice is all gone-- [DW: Yeah, yeah.] Somebody has to go get ice and the drinks are warm or whatever.....

DW: Yeah...well, you folks have had it now...this is the-- three years, right?

199

EB: This is three years, uh huh. Did we have it (EB looks to LB) naw, this is the...only three years we've had it? They were suppose to...we took it the first year and we thought Lillian would want it back to have it another year and then she was going to have it this year which is the fiftieth--their fiftieth wedding anniversary-- so, so we throught she'd want to have a combined thing over there this year but uh...she didn't seem to feel up to it so-- [DW: Uh huh.] we went ahead and planned for it this year and next year, they're having it here.

DW: Great.

F A 3

F 2



COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
207	<p>EB: They've got now...we've got a...we went in together and while it was at Lillian's, my brother and I bought a bunch of steel and made a bunch of table supports for large picnic tables. Built three large ones. Ah, well, we too the supports over there and Everett, being the timber man...you know, they have a farm-- [DW: Laughs.] he put the lumber on it and ah...of course, then they paid for the actual material that we bought--anything we furnished in our welding. Course...but they paid for all that and ah they moved them over here then after they had it over there. They just had it one time after they got those over there, didn't they? (EB to LB.) One or two times.</p> <p>LB: Ummm...two...seem like. (DW laughs.)</p>
217	<p>EB: Then we moved all of that--those heavy picnic tables... and they're over there in the picnic area. And of course, our church and whoever comes now, uses them. [DW: Uh huh.] But we've got...we've got enough picnic tables and stuff now to seat probably one hundred and fifty people, I guess. [DW: Uh huh.]</p> <p>We have a lot of these big round reels you know, that wire comes on-- [DW: Uh huh.] Yeah. and we paint them-- [DW: Yeah...and it's held here on your farm?] Yeah... over in the picnic area.</p> <p>DW: Okay.</p> <p>EB: You haven't been over there?</p> <p>DW: No, we'll have to go over there-- [EB: Yeah.] I want to make a picture.</p> <p>EB: Yeah. It's an area that our church has been using since we bought the farm in 57'. [DW: Ah...] When I first bought the farm, I worked with youth all the time--</p> <p>DW: And what church was that?</p>
227	<p>EB: Kerr Memorial Methodist, Twelfth and Adams. Uh...we use to take kids on hayrides you know, and we'd go out...ah well use to go around Lover's Lane sometime and places like that. It got to be so hazardous, because people get to chasing you, you know. Boys will see you and they're going to pass you and then they'll wait for you to pass them and then they'll pass you again. And it got to be rather dangerous and we got...to trying to find farms to have them, you know, and I been on Henry English's farm and a few other's farms. Course Henry English's is where those green...ah it's right behind the trade school, up there on the hill...where those apartments are built.</p>

FA3 F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

DW: Yeah...yeah.

237

EB: They're built on part of his farm. But anyway, we bought this farm in 57' and of course, that's the first thing I started. When we had a hayride, we just came out here in cars and ah I started it out here...and we run it around on the farm.

DW: Yeah.

241

EB: And ah the thing that precipitated that though, really... one time we were on a hayride coming out the Nashville Road. Uh, I had the...heavily loaded...a lot of kids on the wagon and some wise guy met us. They were going into town and we were coming out and they threw a... I guess, a big glass or a bunch of ice, you know, They'd probably been drinking cold drinks...or whatever. Just threw it into our wagon and it almost put a girl's eye out-- [DW: Oh, my goodness!] See...we were going and they were going. Didn't have sense enough to know it's like throwing a bullet.

DW: Oh my goodness.....

EB: And a...that ah scared us and course a--then we--since then we don't normally get out on the road. We might go in a subdivision but-- [DW: Uh huh.] we just circle around here on the farm and in the picnic areas. When we first had it there wasn't any electricity at all and it's in an area that...there's a woods between us and the road so it's completely dark. [DW: Uh huh.] You don't see the lights when you're back there. [DW: Uh huh.]

255

You don't see lights or anything. There's nobody behind us that's got lights that show up so it's been real primitive and real nice-- [DW: Uh huh.] now we done it up and got electricity and all that stuff-- (DW laughs) It's still if you turn the electricity off you still you know, it's pretty secluded-- [DW: Uh huh.] We had a big bonfires and stuff like that because we got a lot of wood so it works out real well. [DW: Uh huh.]

The kids were supposed to have been out here last Saturday night from the church--a [DW: Uh huh.] See, our church, if you noticed the sign down here-- [DW: I did.] is Kerr Memorial. They been using it ever since that for picnics or Vacation Bible School parties-- [DW: Uh huh.] and the Girl Scouts have used it some.

265

The Pershing Rifle group up at Western used to and I had to stop them. They got to having beer parties and I just told them to start with I didn't want that-- [DW: Right.] And soon as they started having it I just cut them off....

FA3

F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>wouldn't let them come any more.</p> <p>268 DW: Right, right. In having the reunion here, how long... when do you start getting ready? (EB and DW laugh.) For having the group coming?</p> <p>EB: Well, you start-- [DW: You have to do a little mowing.] Lucille... Lucille starts cleaning the house about a month ahead of time-- (DW laughs.)</p> <p>LB: Oh, I do not either-- [DW: (laughs) But you have to mow...]</p>
273	<p>EB: Yes, and the fence rows, you know, I... I'm not one to keep clean fence rows, you know. I farm and I don't and a but some of the relatives and some of the friends and different ones come out and help like this fence down here-- [DW: Uh huh.] it... you know, it grows up pretty rough and my brother's boys... Arthur's are Billy and Micky and different ones will come up and they've helped me with stuff like that and trimming and you got to mow the picnic area and you have to keep the cattle out-- [DW: Uh huh.] See our... it's fairly... oh about an acre I guess but rather than mow it all the time, I graze it down-- [DW: Sure.] when we're not using it much.</p> <p>Get the cattle in there and let them graze it, then get them off of it you know, it doesn't contaminate it too badly and so that's normally the way we do. We have a pond over there and we have fish in it. [DW: Uh huh.]</p>
287	<p>The church... normally we have fish fries, our church does. Once a year we come out and catch a mess of fish and cook them and eat them right there... see-- [DW laughs.]</p> <p>DW: That's great!</p> <p>EB: I got channel cats in it but we've had two years that-- this year and two years ago, we had big kill-offs... that dry hot weather-- [DW: Yeah...] and they die-- [DW: Yeah.] And we've lost this time a-- where are those pictures, Lucille?</p> <p>LB: They're in yonder. You can't put that on tape.</p> <p>DW: (Laughs.) I want to see them.</p>
294	<p>EB: I got out there and collected them as they were coming up you know. They just suffocate-- aw-- you do the same thing when you catch them and take them out of the water. [DW: Uh</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>huh.] If you catch them you know-- [DW: Right.] They're a lot of good eating.</p>
	<p>DW: Right.</p>
298	<p>EB: There was one catfish twenty-eight inches long-- [DW: Good gracious!] And the biggest bass was eighteen inches long. Mostly they're brim and cats but the church hasn't for two years now...we haven't had a fish fry on account of that. They get a kick out of catching them and eating them.</p>
	<p>DW: But to prepare for the reunion, you have to start mowing and cleaning house a-- [LB: Way ahead of time.]</p>
305	<p>EB: Yeah, the area over there, course it gets roughed up and mowed up and you have to mow it and pick up sticks. It's got quite a bit of wooded area so you--the limbs are always falling off the trees. You wouldn't believe how they do...and then....of course, Kenneth Newman built us a--one of those little houses with a moon in the door, you know. (DW laughs.)</p>
	<p>DW: A "his" and "hers?"</p>
	<p>EB: No...it's-- [DW: It a "take your turn?"]</p>
	<p>LB: No, it's a hens and roosters.</p>
313	<p>EB: No, it's hens and heifers. (DW laughs.) That's what its got on the door. And the men's...the men's got sort a... an open area-- (DW laughs.) They just fenced in...that's all. It's just a--take wood and build...it's a circular area for them. We...at first, we didn't have that...we've built that now and it's got a restroom for men and women that...you know...a rustic type thing.</p>
	<p>DW: Uh huh. But the tables are set up. They're there.</p>
321	<p>EB: Well, yeah, we can move them. I have a shelter-- [LB: In storage.] [DW: Yeah...to keep the weather...] Uh...about fifteen years ago over here in the picnic area we built this shelter. It's a hay shed-- [DW: um hmmm.] I built it so I could store hay in the wintertime and in the summertime, it's the last place I put hay so all summer we've got it to use for a pavilion. It's about thirty-six feet by thirty. Thirty-two by thirty-six, something like that. About the size of the park pavilions. [DW: Uh huh.] And I got electricity, where you got lights in it. This type stuff underneath and that's where we got the picnic... the drink boxes and stuff-- [DW: Uh huh.] But it's also where we have our sort of business meeting...where we have the ah memorial service and business meeting and this type thing.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
335	<p>DW: Have you ever had to cancel because of weather? What do you do if the weather's not right? [EB: Oooooo....] Has the weather ever not cooperated since you all have had it?</p> <p>EB: One time we was to have it at the park here in town when it was for Aunt Emma. Now when we were having it for Aunt Emma, she didn't have the facilities so they had it--had it one time at her house, didn't we? (EB to LB.)</p> <p>LB: No...not that I know of....</p> <p>EB: Did they have it up there?</p> <p>LB: Had it at Eugenia's one time.</p> <p>EB: Yeah...well anyway, they live, you know where Morgantown Road is...crosses the road...you remember the big two story house that used to be there that they tore down four or five years ago? They had a fire in it...where the trailers are now... [DW: Yes.] Going out the Morgantown Road on your left as soon as you cross the tracks.</p> <p>DW: Yes, on the left...yeah...great big ole house....</p>
348	<p>EB: Big beech trees--yeah, lot of big trees-- [DW: Yeah.] Course they cut across part of the lawn now but the road use to go straight ahead-- [DW: Yeah.] That was their homeplace. The Landrums...Aunt Emma.....</p> <p>DW: So they...the reunion was there?</p> <p>EB: Ah, I don't believe they actually had a reunion there.</p> <p>DW: But that's where she lived.</p> <p>EB: That's where she lived.</p> <p>DW: Yeah...okay.</p> <p>EB: And a...but they had it at the park a few times and one time we were having--supposed to had it at the park and they had to move into the community center up on Reservoir Hill....</p> <p>DW: At Lampkin Park? Would you have it at Lampkin....?</p> <p>EB: No that....</p> <p>DW: Covington Woods....</p> <p>EB: That was at Covington Woods.</p> <p>DW: Covington Woods?</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
359	<p>LB: Er....Reservoir.</p> <p>DW: Reservoir. Okay... up on hospital hill?</p> <p>EB: Well, that's where we moved to.... They were going to have it out on...on Covington and it was bad weather. We moved in on Reservoir Hill to that--to that building (several phrases indistinguishable) and somehow they got, you know, got finagled around. It wasn't busy and we got to use it because it was bad weather.</p> <p>But ah....we've never failed to have it. Now we have provisions here that if it's real bad, we can go to our church basement.</p> <p>DW: That's good.</p> <p>EB: You know because ah then you can be inside.</p>
369	<p>DW: But you haven't had to yet? (LB indistinguishable in background.)</p> <p>EB: No, we try to avoid that if we can because it's not--you know it's not as good to have to move it.</p> <p>DW: Right, right...but you haven't set up in case the weather doesn't cooperate?</p> <p>LB: In case-- [DW: Yeah.]</p>
373	<p>EB: Yeah. There was one of my nieces wanted to have it in Louisville, Her place...she's got a fairly large lawn and big house and area around it but she didn't have any alternative. If they--some of them thought--well, they might want to have it in Louisville sometimes. After they didn't have any alternative, she said...you know...</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p> <p>EB: Well, that could be bad-- [DW: Yeah. Right.] If you have a real stormy time, you couldn't all get in the house.</p> <p>DW: Yeah...where would you go.... (DW laughs.)</p> <p>EB: It'd get a little crowded.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p> <p>EB: So we've been fortunate here that we haven't...but back then this one time that they had it in the senior citizen's building--</p>

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

386

LB: Was that from bad weather or was that when our reservation was a--got mixed up?

EB: Well, we was supposed to have it out at the park and something happened and they moved it up there, I don't remember. They was some kind of problems. Might have been-- (LB in background indistinguishable) that's another problem with having it at public park. You...you think you've got a pavilion reserved and somebody else's is there-- [DW: Has come....] and what do you do.

DW: Yeah.

EB: Yeah.

DW: You maybe reserved it and somebody else just got there earlier that day-- [EB: I don't like the parks.] Uh huh.

EB: Cause you don't know whose--whether your part of your party or somebody else's-- [DW: Yeah.] I think it's much better if you can have it more private.

396

LB: Well, this is more private (the rest of the phrase is indistinguishable.)

DW: And usually people start coming in the morning of the day?

EB: We have some come--quite often they'll be coming in a camper and stay all night over there-- [DW: Uh huh.] just to go over there. We got one couple that does that quite often-- [DW: Uh huh. Here on your farm?] Yeah. [DW: Yeah.] Okay.

LB: Some of them probably stay in motels-- [DW: Uh huh.]

EB: Some of them come out Beech Bend and then come on.

DW: Uh huh.

LB: I usually have a house full too.

DW: (Laughs) Right.

LB: Of my own...of my own family.

EB: This...this last time, one of our ah cousins--well this is the one from Birt Berkley's family-- [DW: Uh huh. Uh huh.] The cousin of my father--Uh--he and his wife stayed over there the night after the reunion and started back home the next day. Came by and visited with the next day.

DW: Yeah.

FA 3

F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

412

EB: So they stayed overnight but a couple of years ago--oh-- a couple came a day or two early and camped over there with their camper. Course they were here this last time but they didn't stay over. Just til' the meetings over to stay for-- [DW: Uh huh.] It--some of them have a vacation, have a few extra days and-- [DW: Uh huh. Uh huh.] it gives them a place to loaf at. But generally they, they come in the night before...now, I've got a brother that lives in Hammond besides the one that lives in Chicago and he and his wife usually will come and rather than bother us--use to when we didn't have any room they'd come here, but now we got a lot of room, they go to a hotel. (DW laughs.)

LB: I don't have that much room now that my daughters bringing their family back.

427

EB: Yeah. (DW laughs) Course ah since Carolyn comes with her family and children and stuff, we're pretty full here-- [DW: Sure, sure.] But they just rather than bog Lucille down, why they just come and stay and some of the others do the same thing....and then there's others that'll kinda-- [LB: It's not the day but usually the day after--] Yeah, and they'll stay late-- [DW: Uh huh.]

Then we have them come from Michigan; some of the Howards and they have kinfolks that live in Ohio county so they might stay all night with them and then they all come over together. [DW: Yeah.] Or Lillian's family might come over there from Louisville and come on over but they-- [DW: Yeah.] they make arrangements--usually it's a matter of a day or two shuffling around getting over here. (Parakeet chirping in background.)

DW: Yeah, yeah.

EB: And then they all converge here on the final day to keep from piling-- [DW: Yeah.] Course we're trying to get final plans to-- [LB: Well, I couldn't get ready if they all came here.] (DW laughs)

447

EB: See, we put out on all the major roads...we have three big signs that we put out that has Berkley-Howard Reunion-- what you saw-- (I contacted the Berkleys after seeing the sign they had posted on Nashville Road, Labor Day weekend.)

DW: That's what I saw on Nashville Road....

EB: And that's so that if they're coming up either artery--why-- they'll see those.

DW: Okay...so you put one down there on Nashville Road-- [EB: And] And then-- [EB: And two on the Russellville

FA3

F2



COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

because it's so wide.] Yeah. [EB: Put one on the other side and one on this side. If they're coming up it or going down.] Yeah.

452

EB: Use to, just one would do but since they've widened it-- [DW: Yeah.] they don't see across that well but then course we have one here to bring them right in.

DW: Do you go out the night before?

EB: We usually put those up the day before-- [DW: Yeah, yeah.] Stick those up. And ah then ah the first year we had it-- three years ago--we had a mimeograph maps of Bowling Green you know-- [DW: Yeah.] You see these maps....and one one side it has the county...all the roads and then the other side it has just the city-- [DW: Yeah.] And you know, it's much larger.....

DW: Do you have one of those? Do you have a copy of one of those?

EB: Uh...

LB: Yeah.

DW: Good.

466

EB: You got one Lucille? So we sent those to everybody that had any inkling they wouldn't know how to get here-- [DW: Yeah.] And course some of them still got lost. (DW laughs) They didn't pay that much attention to-- (DW laughs) They didn't turn it over and look at the large scale part. They looked at the whole county map and they pointed in this direction. Some of the went down on the-- [LB: The McClellan Road.] the McClellan Road and-- [LB: Murphy.] Murphy Road and a little bit of everywhere. (DW laughs)

They eventually got here but they-- [DW: Right..right... right.] (LB laughs) But they-- [DW: Most everyone around here knows you and all they had to say was--] they...they stop--some of them stopped down there, I think, the Rock Mart-- [DW: Yeah.] And places like that and "well, you done passed it up--" (DW laughs) but ah

END OF SIDE TWO TAPE DW-84-1

FA3

F2

Interviewer's tape no.: DW-84-3/4 WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer: Dianne Watkins Address: 7513 Nashville Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Interviewee: Earl Berkley Address: 671 Memphis Junction Rd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Date: October 9, 1984

Place of interview: In the den of Earl Berkley's home. 671 Memphis Junction Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101

Other people present: Earl Berkley's wife, Lucille Berkley.

Equipment used: Portable Cassette Recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:

Cassette: Brand: Scotch AVX 60 3M C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): 25 min. (Side 2): none

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:

This is a continuation of the interview with Earl and Lucille Berkley about the Berkley family reunion.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
001	<p>EB: But the minister we have...Aunt Annie had a son, Luther, that is a bishop in their church. It's up in southern Indiana. It's one of the Holiness churches-- [DW: Uh huh.] and I really don't know the official name of it and of course he use to come quite consistently and a lot of times he would have the ah prayer and a time or two like I say, he did and one of the other ministers that was a cousin-- [DW: In the family...yeah.] Uh... started trying to have preaching services and they ah they discouraged that because it's...it's embarrassing if you know you want to talk to somebody.</p> <p>You think of something you see somebody and you've only got three hours or four hours or five hours or-- [DW: Yeah.] Some of them have to go back you know.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p>
010	<p>EB: So, ah they...they soon nipped that in the bud.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>DW: How long did they do that? Two or three year...try to?</p>
	<p>EB: Just two times that they've done it.</p>
	<p>LB: Two times.</p>
011	<p>EB: Preaching that I know of. Now, cousin Luther, the one that was a bishop ah died...a three years ago...four. He didn't come to hear this group. He died about three years ago...ah suddenly, rather and a--course he doesn't naturally come any more.</p>
	<p>LB: Then we have another minister too.</p>
	<p>EB: And that was, yes...that was one of my Uncle Nelson's sons--son--was a minister.</p>
	<p>DW: Was he the other--the second time that--tried to--yeah.</p>
018	<p>EB: And a he was also president that time so he sorta had a time being president-- (DW laughs) but he wasn't president the next year. (LB and DW laugh) But ah there's a time for everything-- [DW: That's right.] Some people think, you know, you need to preach all the time-- [DW: No.] Your preaching is the life you live. [DW: Right.] The biggest preaching you can do is the life you live.</p>
	<p>DW: And like you said, "the purpose of the reunion is to get together-- [EB: Yeah.] and to reunite and talk about...."</p>
	<p>EB: Yeah. If that isn't sacred, you know, what's sacred?</p>
	<p>DW: Right. Well, the family....the family itself....</p>
	<p>LB: There's some others that wanted to do that this year-- [EB: Yeah. Some of them--] We discouraged it.</p>
024	<p>EB: Well, I have--one of my nephews called since we was having it here and wanted to know if it'd be alright to bring his minister out and I said, "Naw, we just can't start something like that." Course they're evangelistic type...ah...some ministers are more pushy than others.</p>
	<p>DW: Right.</p>
	<p>LB: We invited our minister last year but they couldn't come but we didn't even ask them this time.</p>
	<p>EB: Uh huh. This is just to visit and not be a part--</p>
	<p>DW: Right. Right and maybe be asked to ask the blessing but... yeah...right.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
030	<p>EB: But a...you try to not inject that-- [DW: Uh huh.] cause there isn't time for-- [DW: And accept for a few close friends, you don't really invite guests because--] Anybody that's close enough to know about it and wants to come are welcome. They know it and-- [DW: Uh huh.] We don't send letters to them. We send letters to direct.... Well now, we always...this, this one comes from Owensboro with her. I think she always puts a note in there for them to bring her or whatever.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p> <p>EB: Because we know that she enjoys it. [DW: Yeah.] She says that she's going to come anyway.</p> <p>DW: Yeah. She's like part of the family.</p>
036	<p>EB: She said she'd come and stay a week and help Lucille-- [LB: Yeah, she told me, she said, "Just let me come and help you a week ahead of time. You got a place for me to stay. I'll be glad to come and help you." Well, that's not the--that's not what bothers me. It's the last minute things, you know.]</p> <p>DW: Right. Right.</p> <p>EB: Well, you have to get everything see--you've got tablecloths for all those tables. She's...she's bought tablecloths for them--these--sort of an oilcloth type. Tablecloth, aren't they plastic....anyway...and ah you have to get them on the tables and we have these ah little candles that's suppose to keep bugs away-- [DW: Yeah.] with a chemical in it-- [DW: Yeah.] Then you need to spray the area with a spray the night before or day before to try to keep down gnats and bugs and stuff and ah it's more to it than you think.</p> <p>DW: Oh yeah.</p>
045	<p>EB: And you gotta get the picnic tables out and then if threatening rain, do you do it now or do it later and then the kids always want to have a hayride so we try to have the hay wagon ready and ah the area itself. You know, you need to police it up. We're in the process now of taking out some more fencing and making it a little more airy and open but a...you do that all year, you know.</p> <p>DW: You mentioned the drinks and the drink machines. Do you all get all the drinks?</p> <p>EB: Yeah. They pay for them.</p> <p>DW: Yeah...you gotta get all that....</p>

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

051

EB: We used to--they had so many different ways of--you know...they have the president one place and having it in another place and the president was responsible for the drinks and he'd have to haul them, you know. But ah, now they try to have them at the place of the meeting. The person that's there get the drinks. And they just pay for them-- [DW: Uh huh.] And since we have the cooling machines, we don't have to buy ice.

We use to have to buy tons of ice you know-- [DW: Uh huh.] And big tubs and boxes and cattle troughs and stuff-- [DW: Yeah.] And you'd freeze getting your hand down in it-- [DW: Yeah.] Now we got two that they...aw... this...last time they was out here they consumed close to two hundred, wasn't it? (EB to LB)

058

LB: Two hundred and fifty. (DW laughs) Plus tes, plus-- [EB: She made four-five gallons of tea--] Naw, there was three gallons of tea I think it was-- [EB: And lemonade.] And I don't think I made lemonade-- [EB: If she didn't this year, ah she did last year.]

DW: Do you get the church...do you get a big coffee urn....

LB: We did, but they're not-- [EB: They're not drinking it--] They're not drinking a lot of coffee so I-- [EB: It's just a hot time of year and they drink more tea.] I just fixed...a just had instant tea-- [DW: Uh huh.]

064

EB: And then we got--well this year I had watermelons in the garden so we had, you know, watermelon...after everybody-- [DW: Later...later in the afternoon--] After everybody-- some have to leave early. You loose...you loose...what, a third of them about three-four o'clock-- [DW: Uh huh.] And some stay til dark and some stay til late at night. (DW laughs) (EB clears throat)

So, it's a long day when you know..but a-- [DW: Oh yeah... and getting ready early in the morning.] But a...we don't get to go to our church that day because it's just too much...too much-- [DW: Yeah.] going on.

DW: Getting ready and then the early people coming...you probably have some that would be coming--

LB: Kinda early. That's right, they do. We like to be here since we're-- [EB: We like to greet them--] since we're host and hostess to greet them-- [DW: Right.]

071

EB: And even now with all the facilities and signs and everything, somebody will get lost-- [DW: Yeah.] Just as sure as Christmas. They'll start up here. One of them almost turned around and went back. He came up

FA3

F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>here and wasn't nobody here at the house-- (DW laughs)            [DW: Didn't know where to go...] No, and I had a sign, you know, an arrow pointing and ah once in a while somebody'll take off across the field. They'll go through the gate, you know, and go the wrong way but they hear us and eventually get to us.</p>
076	<p>DW: Uh huh. So the first thing they do is--there is a table that has the name cards and one of the first things you do is more or less sign in and get your name card and--</p>
	<p>EB: This...this year...now we've done it one time before. We tried a group picture of everybody. My brother is a pretty good photographer and our oldest daughter has a real good camera and she...she was in on the first picture taking about four or five years-- [DW: Which brother?] Chester, the one from Chicago, one that's just retired. Well he's been retired. Now his wife died right after he retired. He comes down and helps me on the farm quite a bit. Just left here about a week ago [DW: Huh. but a...he's pretty good with photography and a  (Lucille Berkley hands me a photograph album)</p>
	<p>DW: Oh, good!</p>
086	<p>EB: These are...these are some of the group pictures that we took three-four years ago.</p>
	<p>DW: The first time it was here?</p>
	<p>EB: The first time it was here--no, that was taken I believe, over in Grayson county. That was the first year that he group pictured....</p>
	<p>DW: And that's the stones that you mentioned (DW points to picture of gravestones)</p>
	<p>EB: Uh huh.....that must be-- [DW: James Asbury.] Yeah. Uh huh.</p>
	<p>DW: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.</p>
091	<p>EB: And ah...but he took a bunch of these pictures and ah then, this year for instance, we have--I...I made a eight by--a big piece of plywood and painted a sign on it. Course welcome, of course...and then ah we had them to please register, get your pictures taken and ah, you know, the two things that were important for them to do.</p>
	<p>DW: Yeah.</p>
	<p>EB: And then, ah then I think I also had on there: "Smile.</p>

FA3

F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
098	<p>God loves you and so do we."</p> <p>DW: Ooooh. (DW laughs)</p> <p>EB: Something like that.....</p> <p>DW: Do you have--did you get a picture of the sign? Did you... you still have it though?</p> <p>EB: It's still over there.</p> <p>LB: It's still over there.</p> <p>DW: We'll have to get a picture.....</p> <p>EB: But a...that was right over there where they do the registering. That encourages them to come up there and get their pictures taken. You do that before they get scattered.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p> <p>LB: If you don't you don't get pictures.</p> <p>EB: You can't identify--another thing, you take a picture of everybody running around there and a week later you say, "Now, who was this?" (DW laughs) But if you get them, you and your husband and your two children...get your picture-- [DW: Okay.] Now if I see you in a group, I could say, "This is so and so," see.</p> <p>DW: Yeah.</p>
106	<p>EB: So that was the starting of it and this year he done everybody, I think one or two we failed to get but we tried to do everybody. Is that a? (To LB)</p> <p>LB: This is a.... bigger than that. They're similar but they're bigger. This is....grandmother (pointing to a picture).</p> <p>DW: You do that first before you eat because after you eat they start--</p>
111	<p>EB: You do that when they first come in-- [DW: Yeah.] Before they get scattered again. The kids get scattered especially. (DW laughs) See, you got quite an area over there for them to run around in and kids explore-- [DW: Uh huh.] but a, these are some of the old pictures. (Refers again to photograph album.)</p> <p>DW: Oh good...good.</p>

## COUNTER

## TRANSCRIPTION

114

EB: Ah, this is...this is a cousin of mine and this is my grandmother....that's James Asbury's-- [LB: This is James Asbury there.] [DW: Yeah. Yeah.] [LB: This is him.] Yeah. [DW: Yeah. Yeah.] Then this is his wife.

DW: Oh good.

EB: She lived a long time after he did.. She lived long enough to raise her grandson. See, this Roosevelt-- Uncle Frank...okay, we got a lot of double cousins in this-- [DW: Uh huh.] Let's get that straight. Ah....two of the girls, the Berkley girls, my father's sisters-- [DW: Uh huh.] married Howards.

DW: Brothers?

EB: Two brothers married two sisters.

DW: Okay.

122

EB: Double cousins. Myrtle and then the group that lived in Michigan are double cousins and she lives over in Ohio county-- [DW: Yeah.] and Howard, a Roscoe and Myrtle and Leslie and Dotson--there was four children of Ida's, Aunt Ida's. And they were all Howards. And then Aunt Annie married a brother to him which is another Howard and she had nine children, so you had double cousins all over the place (DW laughs) and then to make it even worse, my father married a Patterson girl--

DW: Okay. Your mother was a Patterson.

EB: Uh huh, and Uncle Frank married another Patterson girl-- sister girls. (LB and DW laugh) So this Roosevelt that this is of here (points to picture) is a double cousin of mine.

DW: Okay.

132

EB: Now he's dead now, but he was a double cousin and he's-- his mother died, Aunt Florence, my mother's sister, died when he was just a small tot, and he was raised by his grandmother there. And that's James Asbury, the one that-- that's James Asbury's widow that's raising Roosevelt, see-- [DW: Yeah, yeah.] And ah, then James Asbury--there's a picture of him up there.

DW: Yeah.

EB: Okay. So we don't have one of him and her together than that but that's-- [DW: Yeah] that's the family really that we're descendants of that a-- (LB in background



COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
142	indistinguishable) is--others are welcome but you know, even cousins-- [DW: Okay.]
	LB: These are first cousins, second cousins, third cousins.... (LB points to three photographs of cousins)
	DW: Oh, that's good.
	EB: We had fourths this year.
	LB: We had fourths this year. This is two years ago.
	DW: Oh good.
	LB: I think it was two years ago.
	EB: Is that two years ago?
	LB: No. That's three....
	EB: No, that's four years ago.
	LB: That's four years ago.
	EB: That's the first year he did it over at Lillian's.
	DW: Oh, that's a great idea, taking-- [LB: That's five years.]
147	EB: That's five years ago...okay. Now, this year, he done it rather extensively again so-- [DW: Uh huh.] we're just...we haven't gotten all the pictures out yet and a--he's getting them developed in Chicago and will send us sets of them so-- [DW: Oh, these are great. (DW laughs) These are great.] This is more or less to keep a record and we're trying now--we're starting, getting on to the idea of--he's going to send each person, each family, a picture of them. And then if they want, other pictures of other groups.
	DW: Then just tell him....
	EB: Just let him know it.
	LB: Oh, I did that this year. I did that too.
	DW: Yeah, yeah.
154	EB: You sent these to everybody, that they--
	DW: Each family got their own...
	EB: And a-- [LB: That was a job.]
	DW: That was a job.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
156	<p>EB: Yeah. Course we just paid for them and sent them, you know, and if somebody wants--you know, they can buy a set or whatever, but course, we'd like to have a set of all of them each time and...it's nice. You can look through there and with a group like that you can identify them, otherwise, pictures are not worth a lot if you can't identify them.</p> <p>DW: Yeah, yeah. But after awhile the names mean something--  [EB: Yeah.] You can look at a picture and put everybody together.</p> <p>EB: You can put your families together.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p> <p>EB: Then you see a large group picture of everybody, you can pick out who--</p>
162	<p>DW: Uh huh, uh huh. Ah...when there's a new marriage or new people come, or new family members that you haven't met before, when are they introduced. In the initial circle or after you eat and kinda--</p>
165	<p>EB: We don't really have introductions. Your nameplate's your introduction. [DW: Uh huh.] Ah...it's difficult. You have such a change you know-- [DW: Uh huh.] Like this time, we had a large--one of the largest groups we had in a long time and there were a lot of the old regulars-- [DW: Uh huh.] that weren't here.</p> <p>We had ah...Myrtle, the Howard that lives in Ohio county. Her husband had had a stroke. Neither of them...and she had never missed I don't guess before-- [DW: Oh...] She was the one that was the statistician before Diane, you know, took it over-- [DW: Uh huh.] So they were not here and ah there were a lot of others that were not here... yet we had a lot of new-- [DW: New...younger.] that come on [DW: A lot of younger.] And there's so many potentials. We have probably a potential of four hundred, I guess.</p> <p>LB: Yeah, we do, if they all come.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p>
175	<p>EB: But ah, from year--some don't. We had some that lived in Florida, some cousins that eyesight wasn't too good; didn't want to drive up, and this type of thing, you know, so ah...they'll come ever so often. I had a second cousin, McKinney, that hadn't been here since we had it at Kentucky Lake. We had it--and ah, he lives over in--at the edge of, western end of Kentucky-- just about as far as you can go, and ah...they were</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>here this time, he and his wife, so, you know...you have this type--this thing that moves on off....</p>
	<p>DW: New ones every year.</p>
183	<p>EB: Uh huh. And ah...they...they just...the nameplate gets you mingled in the group and of course, most people--          [DW: Yeah.] semi know each other and it works out. If you had something special like somebody comes from a long ways or unusual, you know, they would probably announce-- [DW: Yeah. Right.] but otherwise, we let people sorta find their own meeting, you know, and enjoy themselves-- [DW: Uh huh.] Stay as relaxed as possible. We don't--too much, you know--tight restrictions.</p>
	<p>DW: Right.. Right, right. Ah...one of the questions: what do...do they wear...? Do the ladies wear dresses--everybody just come casual and the...the children...?</p>
	<p>EB: She (nods to LB) wears shorts.</p>
	<p>DW: (Laughs) I just started to say, it's hot summer and--          [EB: It gets uncomfortable.] Yeah.</p>
	<p>LB: If it's warm...</p>
	<p>EB: Too uncomfortable. You dress for the occasion.</p>
	<p>LB: How ever you want to come.</p>
193	<p>DW: And I guess the ones that maybe come out from church maybe change after they get here.</p>
	<p>LB: Some of them came dressed up from church.</p>
195	<p>EB: And a, we have a...we have a pine wooded area over there. I set pines out right after we bought the place. Course they're large now-- [DW: Yeah. What'd you set--the white pine or scotch?] I goofed up and set the loblolly and the white and of course, the loblolly took over. That's some of your government's recommendations. They recommended the dumbest thing. (LB and LB laugh)</p> <p>Loblolly's not good for anything, you know. They...they rot two days after they fall down but anyway, they're pretty you know-- [DW: Uh huh] They're in rows and everything, so we...we , ever since we been having it over here, we'll mow around in there and make a wilderness trail in there for kids to follow and people follow. They call it "the wilderness trail." (DW laughs)          And especially some of them will have their boyfriends or be courting, you know, ah they'll--</p>
	<p>DW: They go over in the pine forest....</p>

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COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
207	LB: Yeah, they all go...where they're in private.
	EB: And ah, but it gives them something to do and if you don't get their pictures before they start, you know, they go down to the pond. They got a big walk plank out over the pond. They feed the fish, you know, this type thing-- [DW: Everybody's scattered and--] Some just plain go out walking over the farm looking at the cattle, you know. So if you don't get them when they come in, your liable to not catch them-- [DW: Uh huh.] for as far as pictures.
	DW: Right. Right. Do the men play horseshoes?
	EB: Ah...they usually play volleyball. This is the first year they haven't played volleyball.
	LB: Or horseshoes.
	EB: We have one place where they normally pitch horseshoes and they--
215	LB: That's what we need to do is get all this stuff ready ahead of time.
	EB: Yeah, that's--
	LB: That's our problem. We wait--we don't wait--but we just don't get it done.
	DW: No...it just gets here...there's so much to do that time of year.
	EB: Yeah. Everybody gets so busy talking but usually if you have the games set up, there'll be a bunch of people--
219	LB: We had croquet one year and we have a...the volleyball and the horseshoes.
	EB: And we have badminton...place for badminton and a place for volleyball. Ah--
	LB: Swings for the children.
	EB: There's three big swings and-- [DW: In the tree?] Couple of tire swings.
	LB: They love that tire swing.
	DW: Yeah, yeah.
	EB: They use--it's a big tractor tire and they keep... they fuss over it.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
226	<p>LB: It's busy all the time. (DW laughs)</p> <p>EB: Always and they use to--women, the mothers use to fuss about it because it was black, you know. They'd get-- [DW: They'd get...off on them.] so I finally painted it and it doesn't get black on them near as much now.</p> <p>DW: (Laughs) You mentioned other swings. Did you make a seat swing in a tree with a rope?</p> <p>EB: We have two--we have three seat swings made out of this halter rope, you know.</p> <p>LB: But they don't use them as much though.</p> <p>EB: They don't use it. We got one, it's high...it's ah thirty feet to the top. It's really long if they want to swing-- [DW: Yeah.] But a...they don't swing as much. You know, we use to swing a lot on them. Get a big swing like that...they use them a little but not as much as they use the tire swing. They love the tire swing. (DW laughs)</p>
234	<p>Uh, they just seem to--something about it that fascinates them. [DW: Yeah, yeah.] Kids set in it all the time. Two or three of them. Two can set in it at a time back-- you know, with their back, back in the tire. [DW: Yeah, Yeah.] Little kids.</p> <p>DW: That is a big tire.</p> <p>EB: It's a regular tractor tire. I think--it's come off my my Ford tractor. It's just big enough for kids to set in.</p>
240	<p>DW: Ah, I want to do food and some of the other things but I don't want to wear us out tonight. Ah...talking about games, let me ask you this, do--can you remember any times when anybody played any pranks or did any...do they have...does anybody sit around and is there a storyteller? Is there any one person that you kind of gather around to listen to a--</p> <p>EB: Oh we, of course, we use to-- [DW: Probably you, Mr. Berkley] (DW laughs). Use to do more of that when the... when the older set-- [DW: Older...] like Aunt Emma and ah they would tell about how Uncle Frank or the others... brothers, would prank with them and play tricks on them and stuff. Uncle Frank was a prankster with Aunt Emma quite a bit, you know...like pull the chair out from under her and stuff.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
251	DW: (Laughs) They were brother and sister?
	EB: Yeah. And she'd get rather...well, just mad at him. (DW laughs)
	LB: His name is Frank and she always called him "Ecky."
	EB: Ecky...yeah. I don't know where they got the nickname "Ecky."
	LB: I don't know where they got-- [DW: "Ecky."]
255	EB: But that hasn't...in the last few years there's not much of that goes on. Everybody's always setting down and reminiscing and finding where's your sister and where's your-- [DW: Uh huh.] brother and where's your kids and how many are there, you know.
	Your trying to catch up on what's going on and you take that many people, you know, you don't get all the way around. I don't and I try to--try to speak to and see, you know, and talk to everybody.
	LB: I feel like when its over, that ah, you know, I have neglected some and I don't feel like I have really talked to--
	DW: You didn't have a chance to get around to everybody.
	LB: Yeah, you know, you try to but yet you think, "did I even talk to them at all?"
263	EB: You think back...say, well, I just spoke to them, you know, I aimed to talk to them and they--next thing I know they are gone. [DW: Yeah.] And it's--it's a good time to visit but it's hard to visit-- [DW: Yeah.] distinctly-- [DW: Yeah.] with each one, you know. It's just not... it's wonderful...wonderful opportunity for fellowship... and congeniality and all this.
	DW: Right. After it's over with, you're always proud that you did take the effort and make the effort--
270	EB: Oh yes. And this ah...this last year ah--in the business meeting, the group seemed to be pretty solid, they...they like this as one of the better places and course, everybody's pretty well getting to where they know where it is and that helps. It's--it's close to the interstate; it's easier to find and this idea of getting out, not knowing where your going--it discourages some people from even coming, you know.
	DW: Uh huh.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
278	<p>EB: If you're going to a park in some big city and they don't know anything about the city-- [DW: Uh huh.] and ah... it doesn't work out as well--</p> <p>DW: Well, this is such a beautiful setting too, to come to the farm.</p> <p>EB: It's private enough that they don't have competition with, you know, other people.</p> <p>DW: How many--do you know how many states are represented-- like in the last year?</p> <p>ED: Well, she (refers to LB) she counted up year before last, you had thirteen, wasn't it? This last year we hadn't really sat down and figured.</p>
286	<p>LB: I'm not sure about that...that thirteen. After the weddings we've had the most but I'm not sure about the reunion.</p> <p>EB: You counted them on up when you counted California.</p> <p>LB: Yeah, I believe we did.</p> <p>EB: You counted thirteen--it was either thirteen or fourteen.</p> <p>LB: I remember I wanted to put a write-up in the paper and--</p> <p>EB: Yeah, she was madder than a wet hen. They wouldn't take it. (DW laughs)</p> <p>LB: They won't do that anymore.</p> <p>DW: Huh...</p> <p>EB: They wouldn't write it up.</p> <p>LB: They said the only thing you could do would be to put a write-up in there about it before, you know, about going to have it.</p>
293	<p>DW: Do you all put it in the Park City that you're going to have the reunion?</p> <p>EB: Huh.uh....no.</p> <p>DW: You just put the sign up.</p> <p>EB: She wanted to put the information in there....</p> <p>DW: Uh huh.</p> <p>LB: Afterwards.</p>

FAS F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
296	<p>EB: Afterwards...to inform people-- [DW: Uh huh.] more or less. [DW: Uh huh.] People that came from-- [DW: Right.] different states and a--</p> <p>LB: Since people gets 'a card, there's no use in putting invitations in the paper because you know that's just another invitation.</p> <p>DW: Uh huh. Right. Right...right...and most of them are, a lot of them are out of town. There's not that many that would read the local paper to-- [LB: That's right.]</p> <p>EB: No, people that's here are the ones you know, that's real close so they know all about it-- [DW: Yeah.] So we don't have a problem.</p>
303	<p>LB: I did that write-up once but I don't know whether I kept it or not.</p> <p>DW: Oh, well great....</p> <p>LB: I'm not sure that I kept it....</p> <p>EB: Well, she was real unhappy when they wouldn't accept it. She sent it to Louisville paper, didn't you?</p> <p>LB: I sent it to Louisville. I never did know if it got to Louisville.</p> <p>EB: We don't take the Louisville paper so we don't know whether it was printed or not.</p>
309	<p>DW: Uh huh. Well, I thought it was interesting in looking through magazines just in reading my readings for family reunions, how many different magazines like <u>Southern Living</u> and <u>Ladies Home Journal</u>; there was one family reunion that was written up in <u>Reader's Digest</u>. And I was surprised that that many of the so-called "popular magazines" had articles about specific family reunions, but I found quite a few. And it's, I think, it's a growing thing. Everyone says that Alex Haley with <u>Roots</u> a-- (EB makes a comment that is indistinguishable) probably did more to start people on genealogy.</p> <p>EB: Well, we were in that before Alex Haley.</p> <p>DW: Before Alex Haley, huh. (DW laughs).</p> <p>EB: Probably what a, quite a few of the Berkleys--my oldest sister and a, ah Aunt Emma ah, are sorta nuts about this, you know. They were ah, overly proud of being Berkleys.</p>

FA3 F2



COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
325	<p>DW: Right.</p> <p>EB: Uh, part of it because they go back to ol' Governor Berkley of Virginia and then part of it because the Berkleys have been rather prominent in that area over there in the way of post office, you know, and that type thing and ah they just promoted, you know, the Berkley name, you know--proud of it. So this is one thing that causes their descendants and people around to think of it as a heritage that's worth, you know, preserving.</p>
337	<p>DW: Right. Right.</p> <p>EB: So that's part of it too. We've always been taught to be proud of-- [DW: Right.] To be who you are-- [DW: Your heritage.] Yeah.</p> <p>DW: Right.</p> <p>EB: Now, some people try to be ashamed but I think, you know, you are what you are and you need to appreciate from whence you've come and ah, if you need any corrections to make, to make them.</p> <p>DW: I think it was interesting that you mentioned the first one was when you all came back to Kentucky and then a little later, the other family coming back to Kentucky.</p> <p>EB: Actually ah, ah my father had been away. It...it...it hadn't been that long but it, of course it was a long time as far as I was concerned-- [DW: Uh huh. Uh huh.] because it was before and after I was born. (DW laughs) But ah, let's see, I was born ah, probably five or six years after he left here and then I was just eight years old when he came back so it was probably fifteen years or so-- [DW: Uh huh.] in the span. A..and the kids had pretty well grown up.</p>
353	<p>It was quite a change for us to come back to relatives-- [DW: Uh huh.] and of course, we've been proud of relatives ever since. Did you think of something else? (EB looks to LB)</p> <p>LB: I just counted up eight states I could think of last year.</p> <p>EB: This last year?</p> <p>LB: Uh huh. Not this year but last year.</p> <p>EB: We didn't have California last year?</p> <p>DW: But a lot of your descendants are still in Kentucky?</p> <p>EB: Yeah.</p>

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
360	<p>DW: A large number?</p> <p>LB: Well, not all of them are-- [EB: Ah...] Lot of them in Michigan and Indiana.</p> <p>EB: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio.</p> <p>LB: Ohio.</p> <p>EB: Tennessee. Tennessee, that's where our daughter's from. (LB laughs) Florida, ah...let's see, we had some from Missouri--who was that?</p> <p>LB: I don't know....Texas.</p> <p>EB: Texas.</p> <p>LB: Missouri. Who's from Missouri?</p> <p>EB: We had a Missouri.</p>
370	<p>LB: Now this year, we had one from Louisiana, New Orleans.</p> <p>EB: But a...you ran down those--you had a dozen or more that one year.</p> <p>LB: Maybe I can find it and my article.</p> <p>DW: Oh, if you do, I'd love to see it.</p> <p>EB: That was one of the things I think you were bragging about; having so many states represented.</p> <p>LB: And that irritated me because they wouldn't put it in the paper.</p> <p>DW: Right. Right.</p> <p>EB: But ah...some of them are pretty consistent--always expect them back but this year, like I say, some of those didn't get to come. We still had a hundred and fifteen, which was a good crowd-- [DW: Right.] and everybody--the thing that makes me feel good is the end of the day and during the day, people seem to be enjoying themselves. [DW: Oh yeah.] And then when they hang around later...and hang around, you figure well, you know, they're--if they rush to get away, you don't think things-- [DW: Yeah.] worked too good so ah...usually we have a lot of prevailing hanging around and talking, chatting.</p>
389	<p>DW: And are there a few you maybe see the next day before they leave to go out of town?</p>

EAB FA

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	LB: His brother.
391	DW: And then the ones that stayed here on the farm camping--
	EB: Yeah, the ones that stay in the hotel and stuff.
	LB: His brother and his wife always come the next day.
	EB: Lot of times--yeah, they'll come by.
394	LB: They came about noon that day, the next day and they stayed until eleven that night. (DW laughs)
	EB: Then the other brother stays here, you know. He lives here with us when he's down. He always comes down and helps.
397	LB: My daughter and them's here overnight and they stayed until noon and about time they left the others came, so we had company until late that night.
	DW: Uh huh. And one of your daughters is in Franklin. (Kentucky) [LB: Um hmmm.] And then the other daughter is in Ohio?
	EB: Just above Cincinnati.
	LB: She's moving to Middletown, Ohio.
	DW: Uh huh.
404	EB: They just bought a home out there in the country.
	DW: Uh huh.
	END OF FIRST INTERVIEW