

Mississippi Oral History Program

Simpson County Historical and Genealogical
Oral History Project

An Oral History

with

Pauline Hall

Interviewer: Joe White

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Biography

Pauline Bertie Manning Hall was born to Alonzo Gustivas Manning and Anna Viola Burnham in D'Lo, MS in October 1907. She is one of eleven children, five of whom died during infancy. Hall dropped out of high school during the tenth grade in order to care for her mother. Pauline married Charles Eugene "Dick" Hall in November 1928 in Mendenhall, MS. Before finally retiring at the age of eighty, Pauline worked numerous jobs, including, but not limited to, Kennington's Allied Company, and McRae's, all three of which are department stores in Jackson, MS, her site of employment from 1950 to 1987. During World War II, Hall worked for a D'Lo lumber company, making boxes for artillery shells. Pauline and her husband had one child together, Charles Eugene Hall Jr. She also has two grandsons and one granddaughter.

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AN ORAL HISTORY
with
PAULINE HALL

This is an interview for the Mississippi Oral History Program of The University of Southern Mississippi Simpson County Project. The interview is with Pauline Hall and is taking place on August 3, 2003. The interviewer is Joe White.

White: My name is Joe White. Today is Sunday, August 3, 2003. This interview is conducted under a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council as a part of the oral history project directed by The University of Southern Mississippi. Today we are interviewing Ms. Pauline Hall in her home in D'Lo, Mississippi. My mother's name is Pauline, Pauline Brown White. My mother's name is Pauline.

Hall: Really?

White: Um-hm.

Hall: Well.

White: What's your middle name, Ms. Hall? Pauline is your middle name. What is your first name?

Hall: (laughter) Bertie.

White: Bertie? B-E-R-T-I-E. What was your father's name?

Hall: My father?

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: Alonzo Gustivas Manning.

White: Manning, M-A-N-N-I-N-G?

Hall: M-A-N-N-I-N-G.

White: Where was he from?

Hall: Where was he from?

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: That's a good question. (laughter)

White: Did he live in D'Lo, or was he born somewhere else?

Hall: I think; let me see. He had about two hundred acres of land back out there at Gulf(?) Springs, and that was homestead land. And he built a house out there, but I wasn't born out there. I was born in D'Lo.

White: Is that right? They later moved to D'Lo?

Hall: He built a big, white house down there across from the community house, and that's where I was born. And Dr. Ross's office was just across the street?

White: Is that right? Did Dr. Ross deliver you?

Hall: Pardon?

White: Did Dr. Ross deliver you?

Hall: Yeah, right. I guess he was the only doctor around here at that time.

White: What was your mother's name?

Hall: Anna Viola Burnham.

White: Anna Viola Burnham. Now, Burnham, that's a good Simpson County name. Was she born in Simpson County?

Hall: I guess my mother was born in Magee, as well as I know. I never did hear her say.

White: They a lot of Burnhams down that way.

Hall: But my grandpaw, I guess he was the first one in Magee because he owned Magee.

White: What, did the Burnham, her daddy?

Hall: He owned; he donated land for the Methodist Church down there and probably the other church, too. And I guess he just sold it, and it became Magee.

White: Um-hm. What was his name?

Hall: Pardon?

White: What was your mother's daddy's name?

Hall: What was what?

White: What was Mr. Burnham's name?

Hall: Ellis.

White: Ellis? Ellis Burnham. I've heard that name. But your mom and dad moved here into town before you were born, huh? They moved in and built the big, white house down here where you were born? Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Hall: I had two sisters and three brothers.

White: That's a pretty big family, wasn't it?

Hall: Now, my mother and daddy had more children than that, but a lot of children, some of their children died—

White: Is that right?

Hall: —when they were—you know, doctors didn't know what to do for children when they got upset stomachs back then. And some of them died.

White: Most of them pretty young when they died?

Hall: They do what?

White: Were they pretty young when they died?

Hall: They were just babies.

White: Small babies, huh? What were your sisters' names? You had two sisters.

Hall: One of my sisters, Lillie Mae Manning and Eula Manning. I believe both of them had Mae on the end of their name. (laughter) I must be wrong about that. (laughter)

White: Well, they may have. Both of them might have had Mae as their second name. That'd be a little unusual, though, wouldn't it?

Hall: Yeah. (laughter) Well, anyway, seem like I remember my oldest sister being Eula Mae, but surely it wasn't.

White: It might have been. Might have been. What were your brothers' names? Say you had three brothers?

Hall: I had three brothers, Vernon, Jasper, and Silas. Silas was the oldest, and Jasper was the next one, and Vernon was the next one. I was the baby in the family.

White: Oh, were you?

Hall: Yeah.

White: And when were you born?

Hall: Eighth of October, 1907.

White: Nineteen seven. Is that house still down there where you were born?

Hall: No.

White: What was your daddy doing then?

Hall: Do what?

White: What was your father doing to make a living when y'all lived down there?

Hall: Now, don't ask me that because I was about that big. (laughter)

White: What did he do later? Used to farm, didn't he?

Hall: Yeah. Well, now, on that land out there, he owned a sawmill, and he did that, and he had families on the farm to do the farming, but now, whether he was doing that while we lived there, I can't tell you because I wasn't nothing but a kid, about five years old.

White: For a long time he ran a sawmill, though, huh?

Hall: Yeah.

White: And a farm. What was it like growing up in a house with three brothers and two sisters?

Hall: What now?

White: What was it like growing up in a big, old house with [three] brothers and two sisters?

Hall: Well, (laughter) I don't think they were all there at the same time.

White: They weren't?

Hall: I remember the middle brother, and he went off to college, and after that, he went to the Delta, and he worked for a man, managed a plantation up there for a Dr.

Atterberry(?). And so later he bought a plantation, himself, and he retired after long years, and he sold his plantation and retired. But now, Silas and Vernon, that's a good question about them. (laughter) They didn't have any special—I can't remember what they did. I know Vernon went up in a place close to Aberdeen, and he worked for somebody up there, and Silas, he farmed.

White: Was his farm around here?

Hall: Out at Denham(?) Springs. That's where my—my daddy gave him some land out there. That's where he farmed.

White: Where did y'all go to school?

Hall: Pardon?

White: Where did you go to school?

Hall: Where?

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: Did I go?

White: Right.

Hall: D'Lo.

White: The old D'Lo school here? What was it like?

Hall: (laughter) It was pretty good.

White: Who was your first grade teacher?

Hall: I don't know that.

White: You don't remember your first grade teacher?

Hall: No. I can tell you my fourth grade teacher.

White: All right.

Hall: Her name was Miss Calhoun(?), and she didn't like me, and I didn't like her.

White: Uh-oh. (laughter) I remember a teacher like that, too, I think.

Hall: Oh! I was (inaudible). You know kids are funny things. You can do the least little thing to them, and they'll get so they don't like you real quick.

White: You think that's what happened there, huh?

Hall: Probably. (laughter) She probably, she made me stand in the corner more than she did (laughter) the rest of them.

White: Uh-oh.

Hall: Maybe I needed to do it. I don't know.

White: You remember it, though, don't you?

Hall: If I talked, I guess was when she did it. (laughter)

White: Who were some of your best buddies when you were coming up in school?

Hall: What?

White: Who were some of your best friends when you were coming up in school?

Hall: Well, that was a long time ago. I can't tell you that.

White: Was Reba Murray(?) one of them?

Hall: Yeah. Reba Murray was one.

White: What kind of games did y'all play? Do you remember when you were coming up in school?

Hall: Hopscotch. (laughter) Let me see. Well, the girls played marbles just like the boys did.

White: Oh, they did?

Hall: Yeah, they did.

White: The girls didn't play marbles down in Pinola. (laughter)

Hall: Oh, they did down here.

White: Did they have any ball games?

Hall: Any what?

White: Any ball games?

Hall: Well—

Unknown voice: —a player.

Hall: I played basketball.

White: You did? They must have had a good ladies basketball team here in D'Lo.

Hall: Yeah, it was pretty good.

White: I think I've heard mention of it before.

Hall: Every time I see Christine Let(?) she talks about what a good basketball player I was.

White: I believe she told me that when I interviewed her (laughter) a few weeks ago. She sure did. She either told me on the tape or just while we were changing the tape, but I think it's on the tape.

Hall: Well.

White: Who else was on your team?

Hall: (Inaudible)

White: Who else was on the team with you?

Hall: Let me see. Louise Skinner(?), I can remember her. I don't know. That's a hard question.

White: Well, we'll ask you some questions that make you think.

Hall: You know, after you get to be my age, you forget a lot of stuff.

White: You'll remember it in a minute. You just hadn't thought about it in a while (inaudible), have you? (laughter) You start thinking about it, and you start remembering it, usually.

Hall: I don't know. Let me see. I can't remember the girls' names, though. I just really, I can't even remember the—we had, when that YMCA was over there, well, we had a Y team; the girls did, but we were grown then. And I can't even remember them. (laughter)

White: Well, you might have had your mind on other things then, too, you know?

Hall: I know Jeanette Dye(?) was one of them on that team, and I think she's about the only one I remember the name. That was because she was kin to me.

White: Is that right? You remember some of the other teachers' names that you had, or principals?

Hall: Oh, Lord. I don't know. I can't tell you that right now.

White: Well, I don't mean to put you on the spot. We just talking, so if you don't remember something, just say, "I don't remember it," and we'll go on to something else. Did you finish school—

Hall: No.

White: —at D'Lo? You didn't go anywhere else, huh?

Hall: No, I didn't finish school.

White: You didn't go to another school, though. That's what I was asking. You didn't go to another school after D'Lo, did you?

Hall: You don't remember what?

White: You didn't go to another school—

Hall: No.

White: —after you left D'Lo, did you? You didn't happen to get married or anything like that, did you? What kind of work did you do right out of school?

Hall: I didn't quit school and get married. (laughter)

White: You didn't? Did you go to work?

Hall: My mother was sick a lot, and I had to stay off from school a lot.

White: Well, that explains it.

Hall: And after the tenth grade, I just quit.

White: Well, the reason I asked you about work was I know you spent a lot of years working in Jackson, I remember, among other places.

Hall: About what?

White: You worked for a long time in Jackson, didn't you?

Hall: Yeah. About from [19]50 to [19]87.

White: Fifty to [19]87. You moved up there; you told me before we started the interview, one time.

Hall: Yeah. And I commuted all those years except three. Like I told you, I lived there three years, and I got tired of that, so I came back home.

White: You remember about when it was when you moved up there?

Hall: Pardon?

White: What years did you live in Jackson? Do you remember?

Hall: What what?

White: What years did you live in Jackson?

Hall: No. No, I don't remember.

White: But you been working up there a long time and driving back and forth before you moved up there?

Hall: The last two years that I worked, I had to drive myself, but it was easy to get a ride when McRae was downtown. Well, I started off with Kennington, and after he sold Kennington, after I was there four years, and he sold Kennington to Allied. And Allied in 1972 I think it was, they sold it to [McRae]. And I worked for all three of them.

White: And then you worked at McRaes you said, a long time.

Hall: I worked for McRae about fifteen years I think.

White: Both of those were at the stores on Capitol Street, wasn't it?

Hall: There was what?

White: That was on Capitol Street? Both of those stores, weren't they?

Hall: Well, for a while, but he moved out in the—do you know where that building is where all those offices are?

White: You talking about McRaes, where it moved to?

Hall: Yeah.

White: Right. I remember when they moved. You were working for them when they moved.

Hall: Well, our department, we made draperies, and our department was in that building where all those offices were, and the store was over in the mall. And that's why he—he moved from downtown out there.

White: Did you like sewing? Did you like doing seamstress work, working on draperies?

Hall: When I first started to work, I did, but then I was a supervisor for a long time.

White: How'd you learn how to sew?

Hall: Oh, I learned that when my mama was living.

White: Was she a good seamstress?

Hall: Yes, she was. You know, back then people made their clothes more than they do now. Lord, now some people can't even sew up a seam. (laughter)

White: When you first started sewing, did you have an electric sewing machine?

Hall: You mean when I learned? (laughter)

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: No.

White: What kind of sewing machine did you have?

Hall: One that you pedaled. That was my mother's.

White: Pedaled with your foot, huh? Did you like that?

Hall: Did I like to sew?

White: Right.

Hall: Yeah, I guess I did. I got into a bunch of it in Jackson, so I must have liked it (inaudible).

White: You bound to have. (laughter) Did a lot of work (inaudible).

Hall: Of course, making dresses and things like that is quite different to making draperies. I made those draperies that's hanging there.

White: Is that right? Well, they're very attractive. You sew much now?

Hall: No.

White: You don't.

Hall: I can't see much now.

White: Well, that does present problems with it, then, doesn't it? Have you still got a sewing machine, though?

Hall: Yeah, I have a sewing machine.

White: You might need it. You know? You just might need it. Like that driver's license you said you were going to keep if you ever decide to quit driving, (laughter) you going to keep (inaudible) just in case you need it?

Hall: I got a lot of things now that I could stitch up, that needs a few stitches.

White: But you still driving to church and around, too, you said, didn't you?

Hall: Yeah.

White: You don't go to Jackson anymore, though, huh?

Hall: No.

White: At some point here—I'm not jumping around, but at some point here you got married, didn't you?

Hall: Yeah, I did.

White: Who did you marry?

Hall: Who?

White: Yes, ma'am. What was his name?

Hall: Well, his name was Charles Eugene Hall, and when he was little, his grandmother nicknamed him Dick, and that's what everybody called him. And that's what everybody in D'Lo used.

White: When did y'all get married?

Hall: When?

White: Yes, ma'am. I got it written down right here, but I—

Hall: November the sixteenth, 1928.

White: Good. Where did y'all get married. Where?

Hall: What?

White: Where did you get married?

Hall: Where?

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: In Mendenhall at the chancery clerk's office. (laughter) I didn't have a big wedding. Let me see. What was that guy's name that—the mayor was the one that married us.

White: The mayor of Mendenhall?

Hall: Let me see. What was that guy's name? Anyway, I think with my marriage license, I've got his picture on there, too.

White: Is that right? I don't remember who the mayor was in 1928. I'll be honest with you. And did you guys have any children?

Hall: I had a son.

White: What's his name?

Hall: Charles Eugene Hall Jr.

White: Charles Eugene Hall Jr. What year was he born?

Hall: Let me see now. He was born in [19]31.

White: Thirty-one. I saw on that little biographical sheet that you filled out—

Hall: March the twenty-third, he was born, in 1931.

White: Nineteen thirty-one. I saw on that biographical sheet that you had filled out, that you also did some work, unusual work during World War II.

Hall: Do what?

White: You did some kind of work during World War II that didn't involve seamstress work.

Hall: (laughter) How'd you know that?

White: You filled out, it's filled out on this little biographical sheet right here.

Hall: Oh.

White: What did you do during the war?

Hall: You know Jack Weaver had that mill over there?

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: OK. Well, that's where I did—I nailed box ends together. You know they—

White: Wooden boxes?

Hall: They put those box ends together. They weren't all in one piece, and that's what I did.

White: What all did they put in those boxes? Do you know? What did they make them for?

Hall: Shells.

White: They were all shells.

Hall: Yeah.

White: That was really part of the—

Hall: The boxes, I think, were about that long, and then those ends that went on them was something like that.

White: They had to be pretty strong, didn't they? That box had to be pretty strong to hold ammunition, didn't it?

Hall: Yeah. I could nail, too. I'll tell you that.

White: Is that right?

Hall: There's some guy from Jackson from some company up there that had to do with building stuff, I guess. He came over there one day. Let me see. Seems like Mr. May was our supervisor over there; seems like it was. I'm not sure. Anyway, this guy came over there, and he came over there and was watching me nail, and my supervisor walked over there and said, "Don't be telling her nothing. She knows too much now!" (laughter) I'm trying to think of what that (inaudible) was our boss over there. Oh, that was a long time ago.

White: Who else worked over there? Were there a lot of ladies? Were there a lot of ladies who worked over there then?

Hall: Oh, yeah. There were several; several ladies working over there. A lot of men and women. I think at one time over there, I tailed a saw.

White: Is that right?

Hall: And that's fast work. I'll tell you. That boy, he could cut that lumber. Whoop! Just like that. He'd run that thing there and cut it so fast, and I had to stack it.

White: Is that what you call "tailing a saw," stacking the lumber?

Hall: That's what—

White: I've heard that before.

Hall: That's what you call it.

White: I didn't know what it was.

Hall: That's what tailing a saw is.

White: You did the heavy work, then, didn't you?

Hall: (laughter) It was the lumber for those boxes.

White: A lot of men from D'Lo went to the war, didn't they?

Hall: Yeah.

White: I think D'Lo had a reputation for sending, per capita, a lot of its men off to the war. What was it like trying to live—

Hall: A lot of them got killed, too. I remember the Roberts boy got killed. And let me see. Well, I can't remember all of them.

White: They got a memorial to them around here, now, I believe.

Hall: Who?

White: They got a memorial, a marker, that lists many of them.

Hall: Yeah.

White: What was it like living in D'Lo during the war? Did you have any trouble getting sugar or flour or anything?

Hall: Yeah. It was rationed.

White: What was that like?

Hall: Well, (laughter) you just had to make do with it. I don't remember how much it was that you could get, but I don't think I had any trouble because I got enough to do what I needed to do, I guess.

White: Did you raise a garden, too? Did you have a garden?

Hall: Not then. After I got married, well, I bought a house right over there where my son's house is, and I bought that from my cousin. And so when we lived there, well, my husband made a garden. And my son makes a garden, now, and I do, too.
(laughter)

White: Is that right?

Hall: I'm right out there in the middle of it.

White: Now that you don't have to get up and go to work every day, huh?

Hall: Charles does the work on the machinery, and I do the hoeing out there now, but I think that's going to stop pretty soon. (laughter)

White: Well, no, maybe it won't. It's just kind of hot out there, right now.

Hall: Oh, yeah.

White: What do y'all raise in the garden?

Hall: Well, we used to raise just about everything, but this year we didn't plant much. Now, last year when we planted, the deer ate the peas up, (laughter) and they nibbled the leaves off of the butterbeans. And so we didn't plant any of that this year.

White: Well, you raised deer last year, then, didn't you?

Hall: Yes. My grandson said that he thought those deer raised right over there in that bunch of woods.

White: Y'all might have kept them fed. You mentioned your grandson. How many grandchildren do you have?

Hall: Three.

White: Three. And what are their names?

Hall: Jimmy, and Karen. She was the marrying one. (laughter) She married somebody, and she didn't get along with them, and she'd leave them. But she married a Burnham out at Puckett this time, so they're doing good.

White: Well, that's good.

Hall: I think Ralph Burnham.

White: Well, let's see. Did that name all three of them, or did that name two?

Hall: Now, Jimmy, he retired on account of his health, and Ricky, he's, I think he's a carpenter. I guess that's what (inaudible). He works in places where they put in—no. He's not a carpenter. What you call the ones that puts in the pipe works and stuff?

White: Plumber?

Hall: I think that's what he does.

White: OK. We about run out of tape here, so I'm going to stop, and we'll change it. (End of digital file one; beginning of digital file two)—who lived around here, and I believe you said something about your memory not being quite as good as it used to be, but you still got a pretty good memory. We talked about your memory not being as good as it used to be, but you've still got a pretty good memory. I think it's better than mine. (laughter)

Hall: I doubt that.

White: Who are some of the families that you remember around here? Some of the people that you worked with. We had talked about a couple of them while the tape was off. You had some good friends who lived right up the road here, I think.

Hall: Well, now, the Calsoles(?) were real good friends, but I can try to think of somebody's name, and I can't think of it.

White: (laughter) It slips away from you then, huh?

Hall: Then maybe way after a while, I'll think of it. (laughter) But I'll tell you, my memory's not so good.

White: Well, I had a couple of notes of things to ask you about. We'll keep talking about the people here in just a minute, but maybe I can jog your memory by asking you about two other subjects I wanted to ask you about. One of them was church. You mentioned you drove to church this morning. Which church was that?

Hall: The Methodist Church.

White: Methodist Church. You been a member down there a long time?

Hall: Yeah, ever since I was about knee high to a duck.

White: Well, knee high to a duck, I don't know exactly what date that is, but (laughter) it's been a while, I think, hadn't it?

Hall: I'll tell you. I really joined the church too young. I joined the church when it was way down there where she lives, was the church that I joined in, and I wasn't but about, oh, six or seven years old, and that was really too young.

White: A little bit young.

Hall: Well, I know there was some more kids that joined, too, the same time I did, and they were about my age, and I don't know. My daddy helped establish that church.

White: Is that right?

Hall: There at the church, where Ms. Warren(?) the records, you know? My daddy and one of my uncles was one of some of them that helped to establish the Methodist Church.

White: Do you think maybe he provided some lumber out of his sawmill for it, too? Did he provide any lumber for the church out of his sawmill, or do you know?

Hall: My daddy's mill? Oh, gee, that was long before that church.

White: He didn't have the sawmill then, huh?

Hall: No. That house down there, you know where we used to live? It faces that street. You know where that is across from Doug Smith's house? Where the—

White: On the highway down there? On Highway 49?

Hall: The Claburn(?) house. You know where (inaudible)?

White: Uh-huh.

Hall: Well, now, my daddy and my brother-in-law built that house, and the lumber that's on the outside of that house, my daddy cut that lumber with his mill. But now, that's all I can remember about his mill other than way back when I was little.

Unknown voice: Description of the church, too.

White: What was the church like when you first joined it? What was the church building like? Is it the same church building they've got now? When you joined the church was it the same building that you go to now?

Hall: No. It was one that was where she lives now. There was a church. That was our first church, and that's where I joined.

White: Right next to where Ms. Bonnie Sullivan lives now? Right next to where Louise Sullivan lives now, that's where the church was?

Hall: Yeah.

White: What was that building like? What was the church building like? I never did see it.

Hall: What was it like?

White: Yes, ma'am, the church. Was it painted?

Hall: Well, it was just a kind of a long church, like, and wasn't no great, big building. Do you remember when our church was there?

Unknown voice: No, ma'am.

Hall: You wasn't born, were you?

White: Was it painted? Was it unpainted?

Hall: I don't know.

White: Just don't remember that part of it, huh?

Hall: No.

White: What about the new church, the one you go to now? You remember when it was built? You remember when the new church was built?

Hall: No. I can't tell you that.

White: Don't know just when it was, huh? Who were some of the families who were in the church? We have talked about people—

Hall: In the other church?

White: In either one of them, in the Methodist Church around here. Some of the families that helped found it and that you grew up with and that are still around.

Hall: Well, the church, the families, I'll tell you; I can't remember their names. (laughter)

White: Well, that's quite all right.

Hall: Mr. Thomas. Was there a Mr. Thomas?

Unknown voice: The Thomas family.

Hall: Well, his family, you know they lived up there in that big, white house. I guess they built that house, and then they built them one down there in front of the Methodist Church.

Unknown voice: Where Juanita Cates(?) lives. Juanita Collins.

Hall: I know they had one daughter named Nora, and they had two more daughters, but I can't remember their names. When you leave, I can remember (laughter) (inaudible).

White: Ms. Ollie Mae Whitfield(?), wasn't that one of them? Wasn't she one of the daughters?

Hall: No, no.

White: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm confused about that. You remember Ms. Ollie Mae Whitfield, don't you?

Hall: I don't know. Ida Mae?

White: Ollie Mae.

Hall: Ollie Mae, oh, sure. (laughter) Ollie Mae was one of my friends.

White: Is that right? Who are some of your other friends, your buddies? Who've been some of your other friends over the years who've lived here in D'Lo?

Hall: Oh, Lord. Well, one friend that I have now that I'm closer to than anybody is Winona Morehead(?). But I tell you, all the years that I was in Jackson, working, well, a lot of stuff was going on that I wasn't in. That was a big part of my life.

White: Work will help you miss a lot of stuff, won't it? (laughter) How'd you get back and forth to Jackson? You said you caught a ride with somebody sometimes. That was one of the subjects I was going to ask you about was cars. You remember your daddy's car? What kind of car or truck he had?

Hall: Do I remember what?

White: Your dad's first car or truck. You remember what kind of car he had when you were growing up?

Hall: I remember the first car my daddy bought.

White: What was it?

Hall: It was a (laughter), it was a Ford. And it was a touring car; I think that's what they called it. And it had a top. It wasn't like the tops now. It was cloth stuff. Now, that was the first car that he bought, but now, when we were living out at Denham Springs, my brother that I told you was on the plantation, he came to see us, and he had bought a car, and it was an Overland. And that's the first one I ever rode in. (laughter)

White: They're pretty nice cars, I've heard. That was an unusually nice car. That's the first car you remember riding in, or just the first Overland you remember riding?

Hall: Overland, yeah. (laughter) That's the first kind of car I rode in, and that was my brother came down from the Delta, and he had bought that car.

White: What was the first car you ever owned?

Hall: Oh, gosh, I don't know. It was after I got married, but I can't tell you when it was or what it was. I've had so many.

White: Were you working in Jackson then?

Hall: Was I working in Jackson then?

White: Yes, ma'am.

Hall: Yeah, part of the time. I went to work in Jackson in 1950.

White: And how'd you get back and forth? Somebody give you a ride most of the time?

Hall: Well, it was easy to get a ride when I was working downtown, and well, when we moved out where I told you that building was out on West Jackson, well, when I got a ride—I had a ride pretty well all the time except the last two years that I worked there, I had to drive myself.

White: Did you usually pay somebody to drive you, or did you just get in the car with four or five people who were going to Jackson? Did you have to pay somebody to drive you back and forth?

Hall: Sure. A dollar a day.

White: A dollar a day?

Hall: A dollar a day.

White: Y'all all chipped in on gas, huh?

Hall: No.

White: You just paid a dollar a day.

Hall: Right. That's what everybody that I ever rode with charged, a dollar a day.

White: How many of you would ride in the same car?

Hall: Oh, heck. We always had a car full. (laughter)

White: Well, that sounded like a party, didn't it? Did you have a pretty good time, driving back and forth?

Hall: Yeah. (laughter) We had a lot of fun. Everybody knew everybody's business. (laughter)

White: I imagine so. (laughter) Riding an hour each way every day in a car, they couldn't help but know everybody's business, could they? Who were some of the people you rode with from D'Lo, some of the people you rode back and forth to Jackson with?

Hall: Some that I rode back and forth with?

White: Right.

Hall: You mean the driver?

White: Yes, ma'am, if they were from D'Lo or Simpson County.

Hall: Oh, I don't know. I rode one time, a good, long while, with a guy from Magee, but you know I can't even remember those people's names.

White: Well, would y'all meet at any particular place every day, or did they come by the house and pick you up?

Hall: They come by the house.

White: That's pretty good drivers. I'd like (laughter) to find somebody like that.

Hall: Well, they all came from down that way, so they didn't go out of their way.

White: Came right up [Highway] 49 here, didn't they?

Hall: Way back then that highway wasn't over there.

White: The new [Highway] 49 wasn't there. The four-lane wasn't there.

Hall: That old highway was where we went for a long time. Sometimes the water got over the road down over there, not too far from here.

White: What they call the D'Lo Flats?

Hall: Yeah, I guess.

White: It's pretty low. That's about the lowest area.

Unknown voice: Dabbs(?) Creek.

White: Dabbs Creek, where Dabbs Creek comes—

Hall: That was about halfway between here and Braxton, I guess.

White: Right. That's it. That's what most people call the D'Lo Flats. What was the traffic like back then? Did it take you a long time to get to Jackson?

Hall: You know I don't remember. It didn't seem like it was any long time, but I imagine (laughter) when I first started to work up there, I don't imagine we drove that fast.

White: What do you remember about D'Lo most when you were growing up, when you were a little girl around D'Lo? Do you remember what downtown was like? Y'all lived, at that time, you lived on Main Street, I believe, right across from the community center there. You remember any of the businesses downtown?

Hall: I remember where some were, but I don't know who ran what.

White: You didn't do a whole lot of shopping at the age of six, huh?

Hall: I remember there was two or three hotels downtown. Isn't that what I told you before?

White: Pretty thriving town then, wasn't it?

Hall: Yeah, it was pretty good when the mill was here. The population was about five thousand when Finkbine Lumber Company was here.

White: There was a pretty big population.

Hall: Yeah. Now it's about five hundred. (laughter)

White: That's probably pretty accurate, both of those estimates; I would think. What's it like living in D'Lo today? Do you like living in D'Lo today?

Hall: I guess I do. (laughter) Like I told you, I went to Jackson and lived about three years, and I didn't like it up there. (laughter) I got back home.

White: Made your choice and came back home then.

Hall: Of course, I didn't sell my house to go up there.

White: (Inaudible) a couple of things.

Hall: You wanted the names of the other children in Florida.

White: Right. We were talking about your grandchildren.

Hall: Yeah. Well, David Hall and Brenda Lee, she's a Hall, now. I think she and her husband are separated, and so she's Brenda Lee Hall, and they're the two that live in Florida.

White: And we had also talked a little bit earlier about, was it your father or your grandfather that pretty much founded Magee? Your grandfather down in Magee, Bynum?

Hall: Oh. Burnham(?).

White: Burnham?

Hall: Yeah.

White: Didn't he donate a lot of the land down that way?

Hall: He's my mother's daddy.

White: Your mother's daddy. OK. I couldn't remember exactly what it was. Do you remember him?

Hall: Yeah. Well, I have been told that he owned Magee to begin with, and he started, he donated land for the Methodist Church and probably the Baptist, too. And then I guess that he just sold off land to people, and Magee came out of it. (laughter)

White: That's what built the town up then.

Hall: Yeah. I used to go down there, and he had some kind of mill or something that must have been a water mill, because there was a big room, and it was water in it. And some of my cousins, we'd go down there and play in that water. (laughter)

White: That must have been—wasn't there a water mill at one time on the river down here? Do you remember there being one?

Hall: Where?

White: Around D'Lo here?

Hall: I don't know.

White: There was one at Merritt(?). I remember Mr. Berry talking about that, Stanley Berry(?) talking about that years ago.

Hall: I don't remember that. (laughter) I can forget now, real quick.

White: I've always been able to forget a lot more easily than I could remember.

Hall: Well, when you get to be—you see, October the eighth, I'll be ninety-six, and when you get that old, you don't remember things very long. (Inaudible) recall something.

White: Well, you do pretty well with it. (laughter) Well, have you thought of anybody else or anything else that you want to mention on this tape, while we've got it going here?

Hall: —there, on this side of the community house, where I told you our house was. And I went to the post office about a half a dozen times a day. (laughter)

White: Why'd you go that often? Just checking on mail?

Hall: She'd always say, if it wasn't any mail, she'd say, "No."

White: You were just waiting on that mail to come in, huh? (laughter)

Hall: Oh, dear. I'm telling you; that sure was a long time ago, wasn't it?

White: Well, I thank you for talking—

(end of interview)