

PRESTON S. STEVENS, JR.
February 7, 2010

Q: Chad Wright
PS: Preston Stevens
MS: Marian Stevens
TB: Tamara Bazzle

Q: All right. This is an interview with Preston Standish Stevens, Jr. of 505 Kingswood Lane, Atlanta, Georgia. A rooted Buckheadian and noted architect. This interview is being conducted on February 7, 2010 at his residence. The interviewers are Chad Wright and Tamara Bazzle representing the Buckhead Heritage Society of Atlanta, Georgia. Preston, you are a self-proclaimed Buckhead boy.

PS: No question about it. I've been raised and lived within two miles of where we sit right now all my 80 years. I was born and my parents lived in a little apartment halfway up the hill from Peachtree Creek on Peachtree at the corner of Peachtree Memorial Drive. I think it's called the Briary today, a little condominium project. I always said across the street from Bob's Laundry. Only the oldest people watching this will know Bob's Laundry but that's where we were until we had to move in with grandmother. She lived over on the Prado, so we had to sojourn there, the whole family, aunts, uncles, volunteer maids and anybody that could get in that front door--it was a refuge. They came in and we lived with grandma for a time.

Q: That was during the 30s?

PS: The Great Depression starting in 1930. I was born in 1930 and by 1931 or 1932 we had moved in with grandmother at 25 The Prado.

Q: How long were you there?

PS: Until daddy thought he was rich again and we built a house on West Paces Ferry Road and we moved in there in 1936.

Q: Tell us a little bit about West Paces Ferry at that time. Obviously it has changed quite a bit.

PS: Well this is the charity end of West Paces Ferry; the expressway didn't exist and neither did US 41, the four-lane. Howell Mill Road was the principal way to town in those days. So we were half a mile past Howell Mill Road on West Paces Ferry Road which was totally vacant. When you got to Nancy Creek Road there was a florist on the right. That property is still there and the girl who lived there as a child was our next day neighbor is still living in that house. It's a log cabin. It's

about 8 acres there that she has never sold it. It [our land] was vacant and my father and Mr. Bernard Neel went down to the courthouse one day and bought all the land from that florist on both sides of the street--a road--it was back to Howell Mill Road. I think they paid like \$900.00 but on both sides which now it's Westminster on the left side and some apartments or condos on the right and then some private houses. And daddy said well I mean if you can double your money you're doing good, so I think that's about all he did. He practically gave the land away when he sold it. That's all they paid for it. In the depth of the depression I don't know where they got \$900.00.

Q: Do you remember because we've had a hard time placing this a little bit but was there a pottery, was the Rolader pottery group around on that Paces Ferry-Nancy Creek area?

PS: No it was where the four lane, Cobb Parkway, its called, eventually came; there was a pottery business called Bower Pottery. There was vein of clay in that area somewhere. I never knew where. It may have been in the Nancy Creek basin or somewhere else but there definitely was a pottery company there and it may have been on Howell Mill but I think maybe it was after they put in the four-lane which we used to call the Marietta Highway. Now it's Cobb. Am I right, Cobb Parkway?

Q: It is Cobb Parkway.

PS: 41, they called it everything. I think it may have been right in there so that didn't appear until about 1938.

Q: Would you guys buy any of your stoneware from them? Do you ever remember?

PS: I don't think my mother was into stoneware.

Q: One other question mentioning Paces Ferry; we have had a hard time; as you know we restored Harmony Grove Cemetery at the corner of Chatham and Paces Ferry across from Charity.

PS: Marian was asking me about that the other day. It was next to where the Foreman house was if that's the one up there at Chatham.

Q: It is.

PS: And I never did know the name of that or how it came to be.

Q: Do you ever remember seeing a church there by chance?

PS: No, there was never a church there when I was growing up. The Foreman's house was next door. It was just a nice little cemetery. It was pretty well cared for even

in those days. You could see it was a cemetery; somebody had come in annually and gotten the weeds out.

Q: We have restored it and we have been looking around for a long time to find somebody who might have known where the church was actually positioned, whether it was on the Paces Ferry side or across the street.

PS: No. I wish I could say but I don't remember but I'm so glad you restored that.

Q: Thank you. Describe a little bit about growing up then on Paces Ferry and where would you guys shop, where would you guys do your...

PS: Well it was West Paces Ferry and the nearest place in those days other than a little country store; and we'll get into country stores; I think it's an interesting thing to talk about. Lay that aside for now, the nearest place was the A&P in Buckhead. Back in those days they had angle parking on Peachtree Road and the A&P, the building still stands as far as I can see. Marian and I were looking at that the other day. It's kind of a tan or yellow brick building; it has the Geek Squad in it at present. That's where the A&P was and that was. . .when we first moved there in '36 that was the only game in town and I can remember going in there and they would grind Eight O'Clock coffee in these great big pewter urns and then I could hear that wonderful churning and the smell of that fresh coffee coming down being bagged up. Later on there are a number of private grocery stores sprung up in Buckhead. One was Kampers and another was Wood & Allen.

Q: Where were they located?

PS: Kampers was located down toward Atlanta from Pharr Road within that block, just that next block toward Atlanta from Pharr Road on the east side where gosh I don't know what in the world is over there now. I can't remember what is there, but Wood & Allen was a competitor and it was located in the building that is still in existence I think, a two-story building or maybe right next door. Johnny Rockets presently occupies that piece of ground either on one side of either Irby Avenue or whatever you call it. I get Irby and the other one mixed up but right there within a block of Buckhead to the west, all West Paces Ferry was Wood & Allen. They had a 1937 International delivery truck and my way of getting back and forth in those days from whatever I was doing was to go to Wood & Allen; they were the purveyors of our groceries and I asked when the next truck was going out. There was only one truck. So the next truck was that truck and they would throw me in the back of that truck. My parents were relatively newcomers to Atlanta, they came to town, and my mother's family came to town in [1913] and lived on Piedmont for a couple of years then Myrtle Street, eventually The Prado.

Q: Where did they move from?

PS: Macon. My granddaddy was an insurance executive; he had moved from . . . actually I think he had moved into Jackson, Mississippi and then to Atlanta. He was with Royal, Liverpool & Globe and so they appeared in the Atlanta directory around [1913]. And, my father didn't arrive until he came to Tech around 1914. So the only way a newcomer like that would have entrée into some of the finer houses on West Paces Ferry was to ride the grocery truck and I was the only one that would ride the grocery truck. So as far as I know my mother and father never got in the gates of some of those big mansions with the forbidding pink walls and so on but I did and I would jump out and I'd look around and try to remember what I saw because I didn't think my parents would ever be invited to go in.

Q: And were those being . . . those homes were built in the 30s as well, pretty contemporary to when. . .

PS: No those are what is referred to as the Roka Cola homes; a lot of Coca-Cola money in there, the Trust Company of Georgia that owned so much Coke stock. All of that was tied in so much of it with the prosperity that Coke brought to Atlanta. Those people moved out there and built mansions. That started around Habersham and not before. Habersham going west. There were some more modest houses from Habersham toward Buckhead. In those days there was not much going on until you passed Habersham.¹ Once you did that you saw the Kiser's on the right and you saw the Abreu home on the left then you passed Arden Road and on the left was maybe Mrs. Goddard's house and Buster Kilpatrick's house and on the right before they built the Governor's mansion was the Maddox home.

Q: Woodhaven. Wasn't it called Woodhaven?

PS: Yeah but that wasn't there. [referring to the street named Woodhaven]

Q: Right.

PS: Woodhaven wasn't there. But oh yeah I guess that was the name of the . . . that's right. And then they named the street after it; I didn't realize that. That's what happened. And then you went over to James Dickey's house across the street, the largest wooden home in Atlanta, made out of wood, [unintelligible] clapboard. Then you had continuing on the left you had Judge Ruben Arnold, there were several houses there but that's the one I can remember and then on the right across from that was Katie Riley's house. That was called Villa Juanita that just passed . . . and that was on the corner of Tuxedo. And on the next corner was Jim Robinson's house on the right going out. And then you come to where Moore's Mill intersects and nothing really happened again until you got to the Marcus Emmett house on the right which was on the corner of Northside Drive and West

¹ According to Mr. Stevens' post-interview comments, the Inmans and the Grants also lived in the area at the time in what are now the Swan House at the Atlanta History Center and the Cherokee Town Club, respectively.

Paces Ferry. Tom Lowe lives in that today. Going across Northside Drive on the right you have this magnificent Richardson estate which was a huge number of acres and all the Richardson clan lived within that including Ivan Allen who married into the Richardson family and some of the other people who married in. But the Richardson's built two mansions on that piece of property and is still some of the finest houses in Atlanta. That was on the right and on the left across from there was Gordon Jones' house. Dick Denney's house had not be built at that time. Do you want me to continue?

Q: Yeah we have plenty. . . I was going to say also obviously talk a little bit about your dad a little bit too because I think he was pretty influential in Atlanta architecture certainly. I mean you continue that legacy.

PS: Yeah. I could keep going on West Paces Ferry forever. All those wonderful houses they ended right there about six houses past and when I say six houses, each house had a frontage that was 500 or 600 feet so they were all estates and in later years the front yard was sort of lost and so on.

Q: Did your dad and his firm design any of those homes?

PS: Those homes were not that I can remember any of those although they did a number of houses out in the Buckhead area. For instance on Peachtree Battle, going out Peachtree Battle on the right was Billy. . Wardlaw; Billy and then the [Morgan's] house. And unfortunately a lot of people tried to get plans from us and the only thing existing is at the Historical Society there is a landscape plan but nothing else existed. We lost that [the Wardlaw house plans]. The next house was . . .

Q: And where on Peachtree Battle was that?

PS: Oh it's very close, almost across from E. Rivers but not quite. Down on the right going west toward Northside and Habersham, so that was the first one he did there and then the next one was [the Wardlaw] house on the right which was just a door or two down. That's a cute house. That's a neat little house, small and it's one of the best things they ever did. He did a lot of houses because he and "Flip" Burge.

Q: Burge & Stevens was the name of the firm.

PS: Yeah.

Q: And they both were Tech grads, right?

PS: Both were Tech grads and they had to go into the Navy during World War I and they stayed together, they were buddies. They were stationed down in [Jacksonville] in case the Germans came to [Jacksonville]. They didn't see any

Germans but I guess they did a good job. They formed a pact, Mr. Burge had been able to graduate, and daddy hadn't made it. He was not that far through but he said I'll teach you everything you need to know, lets go into practice together so daddy never really finished and he and Mr. Burge went into practice in January, 1919. We're celebrating our 91st year this year. The name of the firm is Stevens and Wilkinson.

Q: And your dad studied contemporary with Neel Reed and some of those guys too. Wasn't that kind of that era?

PS: He knew Neel Reed real well. I can remember him telling me Neel Reed had died of brain cancer and he consumed a bottle of aspirin everyday. It was pitiful to try to keep going. It must have been terrible pain. They couldn't do anything for him. He kept going. He knew Mr. Shutze as I did. He knew Hal Hentz. That was a very old firm and as far as I know it may continue today. Stevens & Wilkinson has not changed its name that often but that firm believed in changing the name as the partners came and went. There maybe some part of that still going. I'm not sure. Otherwise, Burge & Stevens now known as Stevens & Wilkinson is the oldest firm in the southeast.

Q: And where was your office?

PS: Started off in a little tiny building in the middle of Atlanta next to the Rhodes-Haverty building. It was a tall, skinny building designed by Neel Reed. It was so unstable that in about 1975 or so they had to take down the top six floors so it's a two-story building now. At one time it was called I believe the Georgia Savings Bank Building. They were up near the top floor and in winds the building would sway. Finally the engineers got in there in the 70s and said this thing shouldn't even be here. Mr. Neel Reed never got an engineer probably and he just built it. So I don't know, so they moved from there to the 101 Marietta Street building which daddy designed for an entrepreneur named Chuck Palmer so Mr. Palmer kept them in practice all during the depression. He just wouldn't let them quit. Then they moved to the Palmer Building and remodeled the Palmer Building. Then, built their own building on Luckie Street near the Y, well the YMCA isn't there anymore is it. Across from the Baptist Tabernacle which isn't there either but the building is. It is some sort of performing ... 157 Luckie and then we, in 1968 moved to the Equitable Building where we are today.

Q: And some of the homes in Buckhead that your dad's firm and your firm designed ... he was pretty influential in Brookhaven too. Didn't he design the Capital City Club?

PS: He did indeed. And I think maybe [one of] the first house he did may have been one of the Brookhaven houses.

Q: It's interesting to me as far as the classic architecture kind of in Atlanta, the Reed's, the Shutze's and some that Burge & Stevens and then there's that group that kind of came out of the 30s out of the Tech design, I think they influenced too sort of the modernistic approach that kind of came through as well . . .

PS: There was a modernistic [trend] during the 30s and right up through World War II to be replaced by what we would call contemporary, heavily influenced by The Bauhaus and our work reflected that. We had the art deco modernistic work that was coming out of the firm during the 30s and 40s but right after the war daddy-- and Mr. Burge had died in '46--and they made Mr. Wilkinson partner. Mr. Wilkinson and daddy began to hire new graduates from Harvard and other places like that in on this new current of architecture and they didn't resist it and that has been the key to success for the firm that other firms in Atlanta at that time had resisted that and they just really took over. They were the only big firm that was part of that trend; it was a very important decision that they made as to leave classical and modernistic architecture. They left art deco, they left classical and went to what we would I guess would call the Bauhaus International style. We didn't think we were doing a style but now they call it style.

Q: And where would some of those homes be in Buckhead?

PS: Well homes we pretty much stopped doing but there was one that Mr. Wilkinson did, Jimmy Wilkinson on Arden Road. I can almost throw a stone to it, right up off of West Wesley where Arden intersects and Richard Courts lives today.

Q: Price Gilbert house.

PS: The Price Gilbert house. And I was able to take the entire office out there on a picnic while it was still there and before they tore it down.

Q: Do you have any pictures of it by chance?

PS: Lots of pictures. Well in some books we have.

Q: Do you mind if we reproduce some of those so we will at least have those in our archive because we had a . . .

PS: I would think you had plenty of them, well the Historical Society must have them but the firm has them too. That was really a shocking house for Atlanta. I believe it was done in about 1937-38. I can remember visiting the office called Burge & Stevens and seeing a model of that thing that somebody had carved out of soap or a pencil eraser, a 1937 Cord automobile was in the carport. That showed how modern it was. It had a Cord in the carport. Well we can certainly get you some pictures of that. There are plenty of them around. I think it even appeared in Life Magazine.

Q: We had interviewed, well Merrill Elam hosted, co-hosted an event for us a year or two ago and a question at the symposium was asked what was some of the more influential modern architecture in Atlanta and she mentioned the Price Gilbert house and I'm somewhat ashamed to say that my parents actually live in the house on the property on which it sat. They didn't know at the time when they bought that house we would find some remnants, where the pool in particular and some of the concrete.

PS: So they bought the house that I think Richard developed some of the land.

Q: Richard sold off that cul-de-sac to a developer back in '88; '87-'88, somewhere in there and he put a cul-de-sac back there and four houses and my parents are...

PS: I've got some.....

***NOTE: PART ONE ENDED HERE.

Q: Your husband was telling us about the Price Gilbert house and describing that a little bit. [Question directed at Marian Stevens]

PS: Price Gilbert worked for Coca Cola. He was an executive and he was an old bachelor, entertained lavishly. This was the perfect house for him. If he'd ever taken a wife, she probably would've put shutters all over it and curtains in the windows and chintz. But it was just the right client at the right time. Jimmy Williamson had come out of this new movement, the International style movement. This house was part Art Deco and part International style. It was sort of transitional, I guess you'd say.

Q: Interesting. It's a shame it was torn down.

PS: Well, they tried to save it but I can't blame Richard. He was right in the middle of everything he was trying to do. But it is a shame. As far as other contemporary houses around Atlanta that the firm did, there's not really anything that I can think of, because they quit doing residential work before the War. That was kind of a turning point for the firm after the war. Of course, during the war, we had an enormous amount of war work, airfields, army bases, stuff like that. After the war then is when we turned and went full blown into the International style and the Bauhaus influence.

Q: And E Rivers –

PS: E Rivers was part of that.

Q: -- was part of that. And that led to growth in a lot of the school design for your firm, too; is that correct?

PS: They were good friends with the Atlanta school system, so there were other schools but I can't bring them to mind right now.

TB: Preston, what about the addition to Dick Rich's house on West Andrews? You all did that, didn't you?

PS: Yes, occasionally we had to take a commission, a residential commission, and that's one of them we did because we did all of Rich's work and we're not going to say no to Dick Rich. I remember that was pretty nice. They threw some work my way. To moonlight, I had to do a few little things that were thrown my way so the firm didn't have to get into it when I was just starting with the firm, still at Tech. I built models for the firm and did sketches and stuff while I was at Tech.

TB: Well, I went into that home when it was on the market a couple of years ago and I immediately knew who did it because, having been in Canterbury Court, which was designed roughly I'm guessing around –

PS: About the same time.

TB: -- the same period of time and I recognized some of the elements in that house which is on West Andrews.

PS: That's funny. It's been so long. I only went there one time and I didn't notice. That would make sense.

Q: And as far as Buckhead goes, and your firm, any buildings of note when you came in –

PS: Practically everything in Buckhead.

Q: Is that right?

PS: That was our real stomping ground.

Q: What would you say are the five you're the most proud to have the name associated with?

PS: Well, Tower Place for one. That was really everybody's favorite. I love Tower Place. If you're talking about Buckhead alone, Canterbury Court, the first two phases of Canterbury Court.

MS: And you [inaudible] Sears –

PS: I was not proud of that Sears Roebuck.

- Q: Let's talk about that Sears Roebuck a little bit, too, because I actually remember going there and buying sneakers when I was three years old, and jeans and all that.
- PS: That was a personal project of mine. I stayed on the job every day for a couple of years getting it built. I didn't design it, but I had a trailer right there and saw that it was built, but I didn't care for it. That's not one that we'll mention. I'm glad it's gone.
- Q: For what reason, from a design standpoint, what didn't you like about it?
- PS: Everything I didn't like about it, everything. So I can't name one redeeming feature.
- MS: It didn't fit in.
- PS: Well, I just didn't like it. It was not my kind of – it wasn't what we were trying to do. Our problem with Sears and Rich's – maybe you heard the old joke about Elizabeth Taylor's ninth husband. He knew what to do but he was trying to make it interesting. We had the same problem with Sears and Rich's. After you've done a dozen Sears stores and a dozen Rich's stores, they come down and say, can't you do something different? And we'd done just about every gimmick and idiom that you could do. And so we were always searching for something fresh and that one came up and it was different and fresh. What happened there, a one time only thing for Sears, they decided – the Southeast for Sears was a great market. They had some of their best people here, and a number of the executives in the Southeast went on to go to headquarters in Chicago. One or two of them become president of Sears, so they really looked at the Southeast as a proving ground for their executives and they put their best executives here. At least we thought they had. That was our impression. Sears at that time decided they would go into – they would come upscale. They would have mink coats and fashion right alongside with Craftsman tools and the things that they were made to do, that made their reputation, and it just didn't work. But that's why that store was designed the way it was. It was supposed to be very whimsical and bright. But you asked me and I'm answering you, that's not one of my – Canterbury Court and Lenox Towers I like. An unashamedly cold crib of the Healy Building. The design was totally – and which we loved. I think the Healy Building is one of the great buildings downtown. So that. We went on to complete the Financial Center across the street from – but that's a fairly plain vanilla building. It just fits in very well. Tower Place gets my bid for the best building I think we ever did.
- MS: How about the Financial Center?
- PS: Well, I thought I said the Financial Center which is right across the street, right across Peachtree. I think the best building we ever did was done back in the 50s over at University of Georgia, the Continuing Education Center. I've always

loved that building and it got a number of awards. Kind of hard to beat that one. The other one I like very much that we did is the Decatur MARTA station which was done in the early 70s. That's one of the really fine buildings.

Q: So how was it for you growing up in the 1930s, probably when West Paces Ferry Road was a dirt road, I imagine?

PS: No, it was paved.

Q: Was it paved?

PS: It was paved. It was one of the few roads that was, but it was paved all the way out to the bluff where it ended at the Purdue House.

Q: And obviously, do you remember as a kid growing up there, fishing, hunting, shooting guns? What would you guys do?

PS: We were right there at Nancy Creek. I'd go down and fish for bream and in those days, I was one of these people that wasn't scared of snakes. I'd walk down to that creek and I'd see a water snake on a limb and I'd grab him behind the neck and put him in a box. I never will forget learning about king snakes. I grabbed another snake, didn't look like this snake. I put two of them in a box and the next morning there was only one snake in there. The water snake was no longer there. Took me years to figure out that king snake had eaten that water snake. I couldn't figure out that. I, a number of times, built little boats. I'd pour tar in the seams and we'd launch them with great fanfare and get in and kind of paddle them down. One time I made paddle wheels. I'm mechanical. I have the curse of being mechanical. So I took this rod and I bent it and made a crank in the middle and I built a paddlewheel on either side. It was a little boat, and we'd paddle down Nancy Creek when it was full. You couldn't do it in a drought. Nancy Creek was just borderline navigable for a little tiny canoe or boat like that.

Q: And obviously the water quality was a lot better then than it is now, I would guess.

PS: It still smelled. I didn't eat those fish.

Q: As far as being obviously an influential person on the landscape of Buckhead, taking it from a sleepy somewhat agrarian, urban influenced agrarian town, outskirts suburb, to really being now, you look at Atlanta's skyline in 1965 and look at Buckhead's now and you probably couldn't – you'd be surprised at what Buckhead is now, what Atlanta looked like 35, 40 years ago.

PS: Let's go back to 1936, when we moved out there, it didn't have a skyline, no such thing. Atlanta had a dinky skyline. My buddies and I would get on a trolley. We did have a trolley. Sometime way back it was on rails, streetcars. We'd go

downtown and we'd take the elevator to the top floor of the Rhodes Haverty Building which was the tallest spire in Atlanta. There was nothing to compare with it, 20 stories, 20 whole stories. It had an elevator operator and he didn't like us doing what we did—"Take us to the top floor." "What are you going to do up there, boys?" We'd say, "We're going to look out the window." "Well, you shouldn't do that." Then we'd go up, halfway up the stairway, go into the stairway, and it would go up to the roof. You couldn't get on the roof. They had it padlocked, but you could go to the first landing and look out a window and that's what we would do to get a view of the north. There wasn't anything north. You had Davison-Paxon which became Macy's, and you had on the left side the Mortgage Guaranty building, which was a pretty sizable building. The Loew's Grand building, which was not much, on the right. And it was just clear air. You could see a lot from up there. Of course, we'd raise the window and look out.

Q: So for your dad being out at West Paces Ferry at the time, commuting back in town, that was a pretty hefty commute.

PS: Seven miles, and he used Howell Mill Road before they built the four lane. We'd go in and out on Howell Mill Road.

Q: Down to Marietta [Street], the Marietta end?

PS: Yeah, I guess he would then – that would end up somehow on, dead end into Marietta and then right downtown to the 101 Marietta Street building.

Q: Do you remember any of the mills? Were any of the mills on Nancy Creek still around? I know Howell Mill had – on Howell Mill and Peachtree Creek, they also had another mill up around Nancy Creek, Ridgewood, that area.

PS: I didn't know that. The only one I know of is there on Howell Mill where Peachtree Battle crosses. I do remember the sensational Refoule murder trial, and Paul Refoule was accused and I believe may have been convicted of the murder of his wife. His mother came over from France. It was a real show trial, but he died of lung cancer before it really got very far along. Like a good Frenchman, he was a big smoker and maybe he switched to Camels and that killed him.

Q: Any other social memories growing up? You went to North Fulton High School.

PS: One year. I went one year at North Fulton.

Q: One year? And then you went on up to Rome to Darlington.

PS: Darlington.

Q: That one year at North Fulton, tell us a little bit about that. What would you guys do for fun?

PS: Well, we had homerooms. We didn't have much fun, but we had homerooms and that was the year you pledged a high school fraternity. We all desperately wanted to be TKO's. Rush season came along in the fall. You were hardly in North Fulton at all before they would rush you. You could go to fraternity meetings but you were not allowed in to the inner sanctum for the business meeting. You'd be given Coke and cookies, and upperclassmen would even take you to a movie and naturally –

Q: Where would y'all go to movies up there?

PS: We went to Rhodes Center. You could also go to the Buckhead Theater or the Garden Hills. Those were the three in the neighborhood. The Rhodes Center had much better movies than the other two.

Q: Where was that one located?

PS: That was right next to the old Rhodes mansion. The whole thing is empty. I don't know –

Q: Exactly, right where Ansley begins, kind of that back side of Ansley.

PS: Or the A.G. Rhodes estate.

Q: Yes, John Dewberry owns that building now.

PS: I didn't know what was going on. I guess one of these days something will take place because it's a real strategic area. We in that year, since we couldn't drive, there wasn't an awful lot of mischief that we could get into, but as soon as we got our driver's license, the summertime was when we – our parents sent us all to prep school after that first year. Trouble was brewing. They had a big meeting on our front porch and I listened in, and they said, we're going to send these boys to different schools. I drew Darlington.

Q: Who went to McCallie? Someone had to go to McCallie.

PS: Claude McGinnis and Bubba Curry went to McCallie. Jim Manry went to TMI. Frank Jarrell had already been there. He's a little older. So we were all parceled out. Then Hugh Richardson ended up as my roommate at Darlington. After I'd been there six months, they decided to send him off, so he got to Darlington. In the summertime, by the time we were 15, we could get driver's licenses, and the big evening was Friday night. My mother had a 1942 Woody Ford station wagon, and we'd triple date in that '42 Woody Ford Station wagon. It had three seats. It was always Harry Gilham and Franklin and me and our dates. The routine was invariable. Go to the Fox Theater. There were two ranges of prices, one I think was 25 cents and one was 35 cents, so we'd always pick the cheap one. Then

having done that, we'd go to the Varsity. Now, there were two schools of thought about where you would socialize. There were the Pig and Whistle guys and there were the Varsity guys. The nickname for the Pig and Whistle in those days was the Pig Shop. And some hung around the Pig and Whistle and some would go to the Varsity. So I sided with the Pig and Whistle guys and I think, well basically we began to hang out at the Pig and Whistle after the movie instead of the Varsity, but the Varsity was handier to the Fox, so we started there.

TB: Where was the Pig and Whistle then?

PS: Up the hill halfway when it flattens out where the Benihana is now. They've never given that – somebody ought to give a name to that place where cardiac hill flattens out before it goes up to Piedmont. It leaves the creek and starts up the hill from where I was raised that first year in the apartment. Then having done that, it flattens out at Houston's and the Benihana and then it continues back up again to Piedmont. I've never known except to call it the flats. Well, that's where the Pig and Whistle was. There were two Pig and Whistles owned by one man and he also owned a place called the Peacock Alley. The Peacock Alley was located across from the Temple where Spring Street runs into Peachtree. That was on that point. That was Peacock Alley. The Pig and Whistle was where I just described. The second Pig and Whistle was out on Ponce de Leon near the headquarters, the one and only Krispy Kreme store. That was the headquarters and no week was complete without us going by there and getting some hot Krispy Kreme.

Q: What would they serve at the Pig and Whistle? Obviously, the Varsity –

PS: They sold hot dogs and they sold beer, but you couldn't fool these car park boys. They knew we – you probably have heard the legend of Blind Willy McTeer. I even have a record or CD back there that they made of Blind Willy McTeer. He was a car park guy, except that I don't believe he actually worked there at the Pig and Whistle. I think he was there just to pass the hat while he played the guitar and sang. He had some ribald songs, but he could tell if a girl was in the car and he wouldn't sing them. He'd been blind from birth, I suppose. He could feel your car and tell you the make and model and year of your car. He would sing and pass the hat and you would try to throw something in there, and he knew exactly what you put in that hat by the clink.

Q: Amazing, amazing.

PS: Yes, blind Willy McTeer

TB: I've heard about Peacock Alley for years. Tell me about that. What was it like?

PS: It was very much like the Pig and Whistle.

TB: Was it?

- PS: You could go in and have a decent meal in both of those places.
- TB: Did the Pig and Whistle serve barbecue, too, or just hamburgers and hot dogs?
- PS: They probably served barbecue. My mother would pull in. You'd never think of this if you'd known my mother, but she would go and get curb service at the Pig and Whistle and she would order a beer and always give me a couple of sips of beer. That's why I like beer.
- Q: When you left North Fulton, you went to Georgia Tech.
- PS: After I left Darlington, I went to Georgia Tech.
- Q: Right, right. Went to Darlington, then to Georgia Tech, and then you came and worked for Stevens Wilkins, took over that operation, and obviously influenced the design of Buckhead.
- PS: I didn't influence anything much, but later on I helped get a lot of work. I was there and they were trying to teach me to draw, which was a lost cause, and so they finally years later they put me out in the field which I loved to be out and stomping around in the dirt. And then they put me to sell some work marketing, I did that. Then finally I had my own work. We worked it out so that every partner had a client base and I chose healthcare. So for the last ten or more years of my practice, I practiced healthcare and I enjoyed that immensely. Had my own clients and did my own work. We built up a big team, a big healthcare team.
- Q: What were some of the hospitals or facilities –
- PS: Well, we always had Georgia Baptist. That was a nice thing to build on. I think that's how Mr. Burge and my father went into practice on the strength of a promise that they would do the first Georgia Baptist Hospital, and they did, they got it. Mr. Burge was a very important Baptist at the time, so because of his connection they got that. We always had done, as far as I know, the firm may still be doing some. I don't know. That was just the base client we had. So we built on that strength. We did, under my team in the 1980s, we did a hospital for Wesley Woods and it was designed specifically for elderly people with dementia or Alzheimer's. That was the first Alzheimer's related project we had done, and then we started doing them here and there, as far as California. We were well known as Alzheimer's specialists. We had a very special floor plan that we used. That was one of the things that we did. We did a hospital in Canton and subsequent additions to it for years, Canton, Georgia. We did a hospital in Clayton County, which I understand now is going broke, but I didn't have anything to do with that. Around Atlanta, I'm trying to – since I left, they've done other hospitals, and I don't recall every one that we did around Atlanta.

Q: Any fond memories as far as your time spent in Buckhead, the changing? Any philosophies? Anything you want to espouse on how Buckhead has changed or –

PS: Well, I'll say it in the words of the trolley driver, Mr. A. Crow, A period Crow. My best friend Jim Manry and I were riding the trolley to Buckhead from downtown. When we approached Buckhead, there was a little bit of congestion and A. Crow looked around and he said, Buckhead's getting more and more like New York every day. And I think that says it all.

Q: What year was that?

PS: That would've been about 1940.

Q: Were there any stories as far as the Irbys and some of those folks that were actually in the village, a little bit more in Buckhead village, that you remember or –

PS: Remember the old blacksmith shop, remember Brumbelow's Garage, Ray, he had a big garage right there at the junction of West Paces Ferry and Peachtree. There was a blacksmith shop back in there, but I'm sorry to say I don't remember the name. The Buckhead Theater was where we congregated every Saturday.

Q: We interviewed John Knox a few weeks ago, and he had mentioned, and I know since you're up on West Paces Ferry, you're pretty close to Vinings. I imagine you guys would go up to Vinings every now and then.

PS: Robinson's Tropical Garden.

Q: That was a pretty big date place, too, I understand.

PS: They didn't have the rules and regulations in Cobb County, at least they didn't enforce them. So we would be able to get a drink, one way or another at Robinson's Tropical Garden. It was in Cobb County just across from Lovett School. You had to take the little rickety iron bridge called Hermi's Bridge, named after Cecil Alexander's wife. The big thing with the sororities, sorority formals were divided into three stages. First was supper, then was the dance, and then was the breakfast. A girl was entitled to invite a different date to each one.

Q: How would you pass the torch?

PS: Her favorite got the breakfast. There probably were obvious reasons for that that I probably never really took full advantage of since it was late at night and I won't say anything further. But the supper was held at the Biltmore, and then that date vanished and then the ball was held at the Biltmore, the dance, and they had cards called no break cards. A girl would arrange ahead of time to try to fill her no break card. There were maybe six dances. Each dance was with a different boy.

The wallflowers would call you on the phone, as was never done. If a girl called you on the phone, your mother would say, well, we know about her. That just wasn't done at all. But the wallflowers would actually call you up or waylay you somewhere and they would stand in the row, anything, to get their no break card filled. But the other ones, they waited for you to call and ask, can I have a dance? I'll slot you in on number five, fill that card in. And this is all part of that. There were – my mother went to Washington Seminary and she was a member of the sorority OBX, same one that Margaret Mitchell was in. They called her Peggy. They were in the same class. By the time I came along, the sororities were OBX, Phi Pi, Pi Pi, and Sunev. The girls that we considered the most exclusive girls were in the Phi Pi. I hope I'm not hurting anybody's feelings that views this, but those were the girls that we tried to get dates with and we loved to go to the Phi Pi ball. I actually tied myself down with a girl for an entire year, and that year I got to go to the dinner, the dance and the breakfast. That was the quinella or the trifecta. The trifecta, I should say.

Q: So if you joined a fraternity or a sorority, was that between high schools as well? So would Boys High and North Fulton –

PS: Boys High had different – it was some overlap, but at Boys High, they had some additional fraternities that you didn't see around North Fulton. North Fulton was primarily TKO and KDK, but KDK had some overlap at Boys High. TKO had very little, but some. Marist was also in there, and Marist had TKOs, but Marist also had, as did Boys High, had SPM and SPO. I never did understand what they stood for. I guess they're Greek letters.

Q: So were there rivalries between you? I mean was there ever –

PS: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

Q: -- bad blood between even the high schools?

PS: We never got into fights or anything like that that I know of. We had a close call one time. We were driving down in – Claude McGinnis had borrowed his father's [unintelligible] Packard, about a 1938 model. It was as long as this room. And they knew we were all – it was Hix Green and Claude and me in that car, and they knew we were TKOs. I think these guys were SPMs, and they pulled up beside us and we said something to them that they didn't like and one of them managed to get on our running board. In those days cars had running boards, and reached in. Well, Hix Green rolled the window up and grabbed the guy's hand and twisted it. Claude took off at about 60 miles an hour right there between Peachtree Battle and the cathedrals, and somehow the guy fell off. We never did hear anymore about that, thank heavens. But there was a little bit of that going on.

MS: Do you want to talk about the Boy Scouts?

PS: Boy Scouts were very important in my life. We formed Troop 212. That was formed in Franklin Wright's basement in house on Ridgewood Road. Franklin and I founded that with Harry Gilham, and all the guys at E Rivers. See, we had to be 12, so we were all still in the 7th grade. All the guys at E Rivers that were our friends joined the Troop 212.

Q: Where was your scout hut?

PS: It eventually ended up on Peachtree Battle Circle in a floodplain. It was given to us by the Fulton County Commission. Now, the basketball coach at Boys High was named Shorty Doyle, and his son Larry Doyle was in our troop, which had something to do with us getting our scout hut there. Then they built houses on it and it was in a flood plain and they all flooded, so the scout troop much later moved up to Trinity Church and they took care of it and that little scout hut is still there. But it disbanded a few years ago.

Q: Did it really?

PS: Yes. Don't know whether they'll ever get it going again or not.

Q: I had some friends who were part of that back when it was at Trinity. I remember going up to see that hut when it was there.

MS: Didn't you all camp there?

PS: We camped every Friday night. Before we could get driver's licenses or anything like that, we'd camp out. We'd hike, and we did it by patrols. The patrol was composed of eight or nine kids and we'd go out, we'd sleep out and cook. We were good boys. We didn't drink or anything like that. We were good.

Q: Where would you have your overnights? Would that be on someone's large tract of land?

PS: Yes, everything was vacant out there in those days. We could go over on all of Fritz Orr's vast amount of land, which was off of Nancy Creek and West Paces Ferry or some of my daddy's land. He and Mr. Neal owned all the way down to Howell Mill, so we could go anywhere in any of those woods and just set up and build our fires and so on.

MS: [inaudible] Vinings [inaudible]

PS: That was where the scout camp was. Before I talk about that, I remember one time or maybe twice, we went to Goat Island to camp out. That's in the Chattahoochee River at the end of Garreaux Road. If you walk far enough, you'll come to the banks of the Chattahoochee. There had been a swinging bridge, but all that was left was two cables top and bottom.

Q: Over the Chattahoochee?

PS: Over the Chattahoochee to this island. And if you were tough, and we all had to be because we'd be ridiculed, we'd get on those cables and we'd walk across to that island with our full pack and everything, and boy were we safe over there. Nobody would bother us on Goat Island. We never saw a goat on Goat Island, though. The story was that somebody actually – it was a large enough island that somebody actually had raised goats over there. The goats can't swim, so they would tend those goats, and they had this bridge and the gate. That was the story. Somebody ought to look into Goat Island and see the history of who owned those goats. In the summers we'd go to Bert Adams Scout Camp in Vinings, a very loosely organized and fun place. We'd go out and escape and go to the little stores down at the foot of the mountain, there were two or three. We'd watch the trains come through and throw rocks at the train. We'd steal watermelons, anything we could that was considered fun, so we had a great time at Bert Adams Camp. That's where you got your merit badges mostly. That was really what it was designed for, was to work toward your merit badges.

Q: Did you participate in any of Fritz Orr's camps?

PS: Oh, Lord, yes.

Q: Tell us a little bit about that.

PS: I was a member of the [unintelligible] – I still have the list of the football teams that we played on.

Q: Do you really?

PS: I'm not like your Uncle Wade. I stood there with my hands in my pockets. My parents I don't think even wanted to invest in pads or anything with me. I remember I never got football pants. They just sent me out in shorts. I think Wade's older brother is on that list, and who was playing on those teams. We'd participate and we learned every sport and riding was a big thing over there. I enjoyed riding and boxing. I enjoyed boxing very much. Then in the summer he had a camp. That's the first time I met Charlie Loudermilk. He was sort of a junior counselor there and his mother was a cook. She was a good cook.

Q: And this was when – because it moved around a little bit. It actually was across – it was on the Howell's property at one point, the corner of West Wesley and Argonne for a year or two and then it went permanently out to – did your parents donate the land or give the land to –

PS: No, Fritz already had that land. Westminster was conceived by putting daddy's land and Fritz Orr's land together. They didn't have an awful lot because Nancy

Creek narrows down over to West Paces Ferry Road where there's hardly room for anything, but I think Westminster owns that just to protect itself. I think the tennis court is on some of that land and I expect he sold it to them. I don't think he was in a giving mood. Fritz was never in a giving mood, either. I don't think he donated it, but some people say he did. But that was a vast amount of land and we had land, we could ride those horses everywhere, and we would ford the creek with the horses and just go anywhere we wanted. It was terrific. He had cabins all over those hills back in there and sometimes, at least a couple of times we'd take off where Margaret Mitchell now is and the I-75 bisects Margaret Mitchell, but it used to be one little dirt road. That was a dirt road inhabited entirely by black servants of the people in the big houses, and some of them worked for Fritz Orr. There was one guy named Fred Moses who was good enough to take us coon hunting several times. We went out and we'd stay out all night with Fred Moses and I don't know whether that was while we were still at camp. I suspect it was after camp was over and it was in the fall, and I think our parents just let us do that. We'd roam those hills all back in there where Margaret Mitchell Drive is now. It was all just vacant except some small houses where they lived and lots and lots of woods. Jewish Home is up there where that is.

Q: So were there any kind of squatters or country folk? You mentioned the log cabin with the floors, but were there other folks like that that were kind of very much to themselves, reclusive, that you kind of stayed away from?

PS: There were white natives. There were white natives. They were here when we moved in and they had been here God knows how many years, and some had seen fit to send their kids to college and do well, and others had seen fit just to farm and eek out an existence and work for other people. Normandy Drive was a dirt road, an enclave of white families who were extremely poor, desperately poor, and I can remember the mothers at E Rivers taking Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets to those people there. They were the Harmons and the Camps [and perhaps the Caseys]. There were two or three other names that lived in these, and then the Roladers were scattered all over the place, and Ike Rolader got out of all that and became a very successful dentist. He was brilliant and his parents sent him to school and he did well, as did Charlie Loudermilk. He wasn't part of that crowd, but he was a good friend of Ike's in later years.

Q: That's fascinating. Just hearing you growing up in the Nancy Creek area, I can imagine how primitive once you got outside your house in that area would have been.

PS: Just lots of land, lots of vacant land.

Q: Any stories passed down about the Indians or – because I know the Creek and the Cherokee were right – their border was the Chattahoochee. I know Nancy Creek –

PS: Yes, Standing Peachtree. We would mess around down there where Standing Peachtree was but didn't even realize what it was. We used to go to the water works before they fenced it in and we'd walk that railroad track that went in there with our bicycles, and we'd go right to the end of that railroad track which ended right at the river. You could way back in there. We'd keep thinking, oh, a train will come, because it was used intermittently, once in a blue moon. But we would range far and wide up on Ridgewood. The local people were interesting and some of the names still existed. The Mills and the Ferrys. There was a Pace family around but we didn't know them. The Randall family had done well, Randall Mill. They had done very well, and are connected with that graveyard on top of Vinings Mountain where I had to spent the night as initiation, a boy scout thing, at Bert Adams. Had to spend a night in that graveyard and sleep on a grave. But that's connected with the Randall family and the Paces. The old names were around in those days. There were so many mills, and the Howells of course are very prominent today. They did well. They may be about the oldest family that you can still find the name. There are probably more bronze plaques with the name Howell on it than any other family. You can just start down Howell Mill near Peachtree Creek and they're just bam, bam, bam, all the different history of things that have happened there and the Howells are part of some of that.

MS: [inaudible] Civil War.

PS: Yes, Daddy kept a lot of acreage there. When we were kids, we discovered there were Civil War trenches back up on top of the hill

Q: What was the address of your house?

PS: 1599. It's still 1599. They built another house in its place. When Daddy sold it, eventually the house was torn down and replaced by a very nice house. We've been in touch with the new owner, nice folks. They've done a good job with that house.

Q: When did that happen?

PS: When they built that house was probably within the last ten years. Daddy sold it, it would've been 1988. The house stayed there for a while.

Q: And there were Civil War trenches in back?

PS: Yes, and the Yankee trenches you can tell. I didn't know at the time, but somebody explained it to me. Wherever you dig a trench, you had to pile the dirt on one side or the other. These trenches had the dirt piled toward Atlanta, so you had to know it was the Northern forces that were protecting themselves. That was one of the stopovers, I guess. So I went back there with a treasure finder and I found a horseshoe maybe – English Robinson, who was a good friend of my brother's, he had a really big hobby going and he had some sensitive treasure

finders. He went back there and I don't know what he ever found. He collected stuff. I don't know if he ever found anything in those trenches, but you could go back there today with more sophisticated equipment and no telling what you'd dig up in there. Those things are there.

Q: My cousin and I have gone out to Lovett a few times. They've got some trenches around there and Lovett's allowed us to go out there. We found quite a bit of stuff. It's interesting.

PS: There was some big time bad news going on back then. The war had only been over about 60 years when I was born. Is my math right? Sixty-five years. So you could find mini balls everywhere. We'd go walking on a dirt road and just pick up mini balls. Every time it rained it'd uncover a layer of mini balls, and arrowheads the same way. You can't do that anymore. They all seem to be gone. Picked up a lot of arrowheads and mini balls. Never kept them. I don't know where the heck they are.

Q: Tell us a little bit about meeting your wife and raising a family in Buckhead and that'll be our last little segue here.

PS: Oh, her? I didn't always live in Atlanta. I was in the Army a couple of years and when I got out, my daddy was good enough to give me a job, but I started looking. I went all over the United States east coast looking for a job. What I wanted was a small firm, so I found one in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I found a number of small firms, but the one I wanted was in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and I worked down there a year. Then I went to the Bahamas and messed around. I crewed on a sailboat for a guy and helped him take a sailboat over to the Bahamas so I stuck around there for a while. I came back to Atlanta and I said, "here I am." He didn't know what in the world to do with me. I don't know whether they were hoping I would just stay down there or what, but he said, "well, we've got an opening in Lynchburg, Virginia. We have a Sears store and we have a contract with Sears that we have to have a warm body on every Sears store," he said. "It may be a mistake that we signed that contract, but we always have to put somebody on a Sears store, whether we needed to or not." I don't think they needed to. So he said, "you're elected because you're sure cheap and you are a warm body." So, I took off on the Fourth of July in 1957 and took off for Lynchburg, Virginia. On the way, I stopped by a good friend and said I'm going north and here's the territory I'll be in. His wife said, well, I know some girls in Greenville that I went to school with – Greensboro, it was, and Lynchburg, Virginia. I still have it. She tore off a piece of laundry wrapping paper and I wrote down these names and there was only one of them in Lynchburg, so I still have that. It said Marian Hutter, H-u-t-t-e-r, Lynchburg, Virginia, and gave the street she lived on. So up there after a while, I got desperate and I called. I happened to be living across the street from Randolph Macon Women's College, so you wouldn't think anybody would be very desperate, but it was hard for me to get a date. So I called up and she sounded desperate, too, so we got together. We got

together, and I brought her to Atlanta for her 21st birthday. I've known her since she was 20, and I brought her to Atlanta for her 21st birthday, and we had a cake and everything in my parents' house. Then I put her on the train and she soon after that had to go back to school in Boston where she stayed the rest of that year. I didn't get to see much of her. When she came back to Lynchburg, I started visiting. I by that time had moved back from my Lynchburg job and I was living in Atlanta, so I'd get on the train and go see her on weekends and finally – I don't know how it really happened. I won't tell exactly, but we got together on the telephone and decided something had to happen and she was going to take a job in Washington and all this, so I went up there and when we got married, it was a trial marriage. It seems to be working out so far.

Q: And the trial has lasted, what –

PS: This is our 52nd year. Fifty-two years this year, but it's still a trial marriage.

Q: Think you're going to keep it?

PS: We're not sure yet how it's going to work out.

Q: And so you moved back and got married up there and moved back down?

PS: Yes. Got married up there and then moved to Roswell Court out on Roswell Road, where all of our friends were. That was where you moved, Roswell Court Apartments.

Q: And you had how many children?

PS: Four.

Q: Four kids.

PS: All lived in Atlanta until a couple of months ago and the boy that married the Polish girl, they moved back to Poland. We just talked to them on our Skype. You know what Skype is?

Q: I do.

PS: You can see and – it's remarkable.

Q: Pretty amazing. Imagine if you had that, she had it Lynchburg 50 years ago. She might have figured it out long before.

PS: Well, I probably wouldn't have had to get on the train and go visit her. I'd just never would've made my move.

Q: And they went to school here in Atlanta and Buckhead?

PS: Two of them went to Lovett, the oldest two, and when we moved out to Sandy Springs, we built on the river. We moved out there, we had two more. Didn't think we were, but durned if we didn't. Good thing we had made the house big enough, so they went to a local school in the neighborhood and then we sent them off. They went off to prep school.

Q: Would that've been Heards Ferry? Up in that area?

PS: No, they went to Spalding School.

MS: It was actually designed by –

PS: John Portman.

Q: Is that right?

PS: Yes. Then the boy went to Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, and the girl went to Purnell up in New Jersey. All of our kids except for the one that went up to New Jersey have had long stays in Lynchburg. They went back to their roots.

Q: That's interesting.

PS: Yes, they worked up there and went to school. Everybody loves Lynchburg, and I do, too. Wonderful little town.

Q: Still have family up there on the Hutter side?

PS: Yes, she still has a brother that lives there.

MS: They got know my parents.

PS: Lots of connections, but they were able to [know] her parents before they died. That was nice.

Q: One thing. You mentioned apartments on Roswell and it kind of jogged my memory. I think it may have been your dad, when it was Burge and Stevens maybe, but did they design the apartments up at Peachtree Hills?

PS: They did indeed. J.A. Jones.

Q: And those were recently torn down. When were those built?

PS: In two stages.

- Q: Who lived in them when they were built? What type of person moved into those?
- PS: Same kind of people who – it was not a housing project by any means. It was upscale. Now there was something that we did before the war that was International style. People were horrified by it. A lot said it looked like an airfield with airplanes getting ready to take off. Had all kind of funny stories. But they were popular. Young marrieds lived there. They were built in two stages, one maybe around '38 and the other one in '40. I've got all this in books, but it's not that important I don't think. Then we duplicated those to some extent down in a project in Florida for J.A. Jones.
- Q: Okay. Interesting. And they tore those down, I guess, two years ago and it will be a retirement home?
- PS: Retirement home supposedly.
- TB: I think it's been longer than two.
- Q: It's been a while. Yes, it sure has.
- PS: They've had a hard time getting that off the ground. We probably will end up at Canterbury Court if they'll have us, but not anytime soon as far as I'm concerned.
- Q: You seem like you're well away from that.
- PS: I hope so.
- Q: Yes, I think so.
- PS: But you never can tell.
- Q: Any other last parting comments, reflections, anything?
- PS: Well, I have somebody who will probably prompt me to tell me. Can you think of anything? We have our tenth grandchild coming next month. Within four weeks that grandchild will be born in Poland.
- Q: Congratulations.
- PS: So we saw our little grandson over there on the Skype today. He just turned two today, so he was able to say bye bye and Grandma and Grandpa. That's about it.
- Q: That's fantastic. One quick thing, too. Do you remember at all the Buckhead summer symphony?

PS: That's an important thing, and I'm glad you brought that up. No, but I remember the amphitheater.

Q: Where was the amphitheater?

PS: When we did the Sears Roebuck job in 1964, we had to have that torn down. It's part of the Sears Roebuck property there where maybe the parking garage is today.

Q: Describe that a little bit. What did it look like?

PS: It was a shell. It was a white shell on a – I went over there and I was amazed because I didn't know it was there. It had been right on the edge of Governor Slaton's property in the old days before Pharr Road was put in and when we got in there in '64, it was in the way of probably the parking garage. They built the Habersham Apartments a little before that but I don't – I think they did not tear it down. It was still in existence. The Habersham Apartments were the next building over from the Sears property, so it was there where we did the parking deck. It faced Buckhead. I remember that. You'd walk toward it from Buckhead and there it would be.

Q: How many people do you think it would hold?

PS: Oh, I have no idea because I don't know. The seating was gone. There was nothing but the band shell. I don't remember anything about any of the performances with that. I was really surprised to see that it was there. I had no idea it was there. All the messing around we did in the woods, we never came across that.

TB: Ruth mentioned that, didn't she, in her – and Preston – Ruth Dabney, my stepmother, mentioned that in her, when she was interviewed. It was interesting to me because Preston remembered her from his childhood in Ansley Park, remembered her playing at –

PS: At my Aunt Emily's wedding. Played the violin.

Q: Is that right? Yes, she did.

MS: I thought it was Uncle Press.

PS: Uh uh (negative), Press was married in Macon.

Q: Yes, she gave quite a few violin lessons. It sounds like you –

PS: Didn't give any to me. I can't read notes. She would've thrown her hands up with me.

Q: Well, thank you so much for your time and memories and all you've done for Buckhead as well, from an architectural standpoint, your firm and your father's firm.

PS: Thank you. I just went with the flow and had a pretty good time doing it.

Q: Thank you. I've enjoyed it. Thank you.

[End of recording]