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CARTER, MISSISSIPPI, HISTORY all kind of cover to keep warm. After we moved over here
MR. AND MRS. E. T. JORDAN making quilts and we had a lot of merchandise in the store
and I got material and sewed it together and this Old Man Dew and the boys told me how
their mother quilted the quilts on the machine; and Grandma and Grandpa helped me and
MR. JORDAN -- Carter was founded when the railroad came through here in 1904 or 1905. They
were working on the railroad before Yazoo City burned, but it wasn't completed. Joe
Carter family was the first family here until the railroad came through which brought
railroad agents, one of whom was a Mr. Cherry. They had a great delta depot for logging.
Everything around here was woods from here to Wolf Lake. There were only 11 acres, I
believe, over here at Carter. Joe Carter had just a small farm that he worked with one
mule. His was the only house in Carter at the time.
and all. Over on Kilby Lake, I'd give this one a little more property over there. He owned that
property over there where Kilby Lake used to be and he had a home there. He was an old
John Jordan came over here and bought 11 acres from the Frost Estate and built a gin on
it right where the gin is now. He came over in 1906 and built a house. Then people
began to come in -- a doctor, a lawyer, a sawmill, school teachers. The first doctor's
name was McCauley. Then, they had a doctor from out in Philadelphia. They had a log
camp in here, they had loggers, they had camps, tents -- it was kinda like a "Roaring
80's."

MRS. JORDAN -- When I came to Carter in 1913, all over here was woods. There was an old
barn and an old house sitting over here and Mr. Shorty Dew's daddy or granddaddy had a
log camp. I remember when my children were little. We lived upstairs over the depot
for seven years. In fact, Florine was born upstairs. Edward was born in Yazoo City
where Billy Hayes lives now. That's where my mama and daddy lived and where we lived
when I got married. Then I came up here and when Edward was born, I went back to Yazoo
City to stay a month down there. They had another old shack over there that they camped

in and, of course, it was freezing cold and we had all open fireplaces and had to burn logs in it. You had to have all kind of cover to keep warm. After we moved over here the next year, why, I was making quilts and we had a lot of merchandise in the store and I got material and sewed it together and this Old Man Dew and the boys told me how their mother quilted the quilts on the machine, and Grandma and Grandpa helped me and we'd put the stuff down on the floor and put the cotton in it; then we'd roll it just as tight as we could, then put the machine out in the middle of the floor and start on the ends of the thing to quilt it. I had stacks and stacks of quilts, but then when the labor used to move in and all, I'd give this one a quilt and another one a quilt. They had farms all up the river bank, the Paynes, the Clarks, the Phillips, the Paynes, Old Man Dick Payne and all; the Phillips and on around up to Lambkin, Old Man Billy Wommack and all. Over on Kilby Lake, J. J. Hoard had that property over there. He owned that property over there where Kilby Lake used to be and he had a home there. He was an old bachelor. The first white settler in Carter I would say would be Papa and Uncle Pat and all were the first ones who came over here and then the Phillips, after the railroad came. They built this big old store over here, Old Man W. H. Phillips, Phillips Store, right out back of the depot. The depot is right where it was. That was the baggage part of it, the freight part of it. It was a big two-story building attached to that. Old Man Phillips and his boys, all of them came out and they farmed a little out there, but they ran the store. They had a big store; they had coffee, buggies and wagons. That was the only store in Carter then. Then Papa built a little store over here right along the corner where Charlie is and he had the store there. Mr. Cheatham, B. L. Cheatham, came in here and he opened a store over here on this side, but he was in this building over here where Papa bought it. He bought this building and Papa used the building there that Cheatham had over there and he moved out and into his own store. Cheatham's daddy came over and that's the house they built after they built the store. Cheatham's

mother and father were real old people then and they moved in there behind the store (it was just a little old three room house). There was a /ten trip, round-trip ticket over there, and all I had to do was take \$20 or \$40 and go over there and spend it.

MRS. JORDAN -- When I came to Carter in 1913, your daddy didn't run that store, it was kind of a commissary, but he had a lot of stuff that he furnished the Negroes out of.

MRS. JORDAN -- In 1927, Chuck, your daddy was one year old and the water came up. It was MR. JORDAN -- They cut it off in the back and had offices there for Dr. McCauley from over at Philadelphia. He was still going to school between June or October or September. Each year the doctors in those days came out and practiced in the community. They came out to places like Carter and Lambkin and wherever they could find a place and then go back to school. That's what he did. Cheatham sold the store to Puffer at Lambkin, no he sold it to Henry Womack. That was later on, that was in 1912. Then we had high water. I started crying about the chickens so I went out there and caught the old hen with the baby chickens and put it in the barn and we loaded up in that Dodge car as quick as we could.

MRS. JORDAN -- And Robert Fisher came down here to work for him. That big old river bridge was there then; we had to go around to Tokely, right up there at Shaffer's Gin. Well, MR. JORDAN -- People would come out in a boat and land on the levee along that railroad track. It didn't run people out, but it got right up in people's houses and in low places. See we didn't have this house here at that time. We didn't build this house until 1920. Cheatham was the depot agent after Mrs. Cherry left. Her husband was an invalid. He had T.B., and after she left and went some other place, Cheatham was the agent and I worked for him. I went to work right after I got out of high school. I was going to college, A&M, "Cow College", and I had my tickets and everything to go over there and I was going to Grandma's and I also had a pass to Yellowstone Park in Wyoming. I was going to take a trip in the summer, and I went to Grandma's then to tell them I was fixing to go awhile over there and I had my trunk packed to go to State. I had already made my arrangements and the man, Foster, came down here from Memphis and offered

and of course, it was freezing cold and we had all open fireplaces and had to burn wood. You had to have all kind of cover to keep warm. After we moved over here the next year, why, I was working with and we had a lot of merchandise in the store and I got material and sewed it together and this Old Man Dew and the boys told me how to put the stuff down on the floor and put the cotton in it; then we'd roll it just as tight as we could, then put the machine out in the middle of the floor and start on the ends of the thing to pull it. I had stacks and stacks of quilts, but then when the labor used to move in and all, I'd give this one a quilt and another one a quilt. They had farms all up the river bank, the Paynes, the Clarks, the Phillips, the Paynes, Old Man Dick Payne and all; the Phillips and on around up to Lambkin, Old Man Billy Womack and all. Over on Kirby Lake, J. J. Howard had that property over there. He owned that property over there where Kirby Lake used to be and he had a home there. He was an old bachelor. The first white settler in Carter I would say would be Papa and Uncle Pat and all were the first ones who came over here and then the Phillips, after the railroad came. They built this big old store over here, Old Man W. H. Phillips, Phillips Store, right out back of the depot. The depot is right where it was. That was the baggage part of it, the freight part of it. It was a big two-story building attached to that. Old Man Phillips and his boys, they had a big store; they had coffee, bugles and wagons. That was the only store in Carter then. Then Papa built a little store over here right along the corner where Charlie is and he had the store there. Mr. Cheatham, B. D. Cheatham, come in here and he opened a store over here on this side, but he was in this building over here where Papa bought it. He bought this building and Papa used the building there that Cheatham had over there and he moved out and into his own store. Cheatham's daddy come over and that's the house they built after they built the store. Cheatham's

me the job at the depot and I just took it about face. I was just going to go on a visit to Yellowstone; I just wanted to go over there. It was a free trip, round-trip ticket over there, and all I had to do was take \$30 or \$40 and go over there and spend a week, but I didn't get to go until later. Mr. Jordan -- In 1927, Chuck, your daddy was one year old and the water came up. It was just coming and one morning I raked out these little old overalls they wore. We had a fence all around and I hung them out there and I looked out and by jingles the water was up to where I had to run out there and wade in the water to get the clothes off the fence line. I came in and Daddy came over here and said "Get your things together quick. We're gonna have to get out." We had an old Dodge touring car. The levee broke, the one up at Scott, and we had a lot of chickens, one old hen and some little baby chickens; and the kids all started crying about the chickens so I went out there and caught the old hen with the baby chickens and put it in the barn and we loaded up in that Dodge car as quick as we could and we were the last car that went over Tokeby Bridge. That big old river bridge wasn't there then; we had to go around to Tokeby, right up there at Shaeffer's Gin. Well, we were the last ones that went over that bridge. They put railroad down there to keep it from floating off and we were the last ones that went across a day. So this evening Daddy said to come on, we'd better get ready to go and get across the waterway. The boat MR. JORDAN -- We had a good many mules, about 30 or 40, at that time and we carried the mules down to the railroad bridge and walked them across the bridge down there and got them out to the hills in Uncle Will's pasture. Some of them we kept up here on our place and water got 6 1/2 feet deep. We cut a hole in the ceiling and put the furniture all up there. We had a high ceiling. The water was up to the rice. Anyhow, she got him out of the water and all MRS. JORDAN -- The Thompsons lived here in that house. That's where his Mama and Daddy lived. Then after they left here, the Thompsons moved down there and Mr. Lige Parker and

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his wife had two boys and two girls. The girls were real good to me and they helped with the children. You know, people visited then; we had a good time. They didn't do like they do now. They didn't have radios and televisions and automobiles. They had to walk everywhere, but anyhow, this particular day Edward was in town and he stayed with Aunt Berdie; then the water go in her house and she moved up to the Hammell house and Edward went to Susan's and I had the rest of the children out at Aunt Florence's. But then when the water started, Daddy went to see about his labor and he didn't come back and all the telephones were out and everything. We were just worried to death. Uncle Albert called down to the I don't know what, like the Civil Defense, that had people going out looking for folks. We waited two days and a night and didn't know where Daddy was, and I thought sure he was drowned somewhere else, but he had got caught up here and stayed upstairs over the depot and he got in the boat and came on home. But anyhow, when the water started going down, we wanted to come back and the first time the train ran, Daddy told us to come on so we came up here and this house was just hollow. The stovewood was in the house cause I had some stacked up on the little old back porch, and the floors were all bucked up and of course the doors were off. He'd taken all the doors off and put them up in the attic, and so the train was going to come. We never did know what time the train was coming. It ran very irregular, just once a day. So this evening Daddy said to come on, we'd better get ready to go and get across the waterway. The boat landed right at our front steps and it went to the railroad crossing. And then we had to go to the depot and had to go upstairs and stay until the train would come. Well, Lucille Thompson came over and she said she would take the baby. She was in a boat, one of those little old battery boats. Well, anyhow, she got over there and she stood up to guide the thing and the boat slid out from under her and the baby went down under the water. The water was up to the ties. Anyhow, she got him out of the water and all

that old muck and twigs and green grass were all over him. We had to take him to the depot and take him upstairs. I don't remember who was living up there then. But I remember we had to clean him up and the train was 9:30 that night coming down. train when it would come and finally after about a year they went off in the woods and I

MR. JORDAN -- The last train went out of here when the water came up. I was on it; they'd gone on ahead. He hated every morning and he'd tell me, "Well, I saw Ole Black Dolly on the rail this morning and started to shoot that muck, but he eat up there and

MRS. JORDAN -- But then he came back home and packed up some stuff; bed linens and everything, and I had a big old wooden chest (I don't know what happened to that) and he brought it down there and we put it all upstairs at the store. The store, right where it is now, Papa had that store and Alvin and Uncle Will worked there for awhile; then he left and went to Holly Bluff when he married. But they took all this stuff and put it up there -- pillows and bedclothes and things -- two or three boxes of stuff. Old Man Bernard helped, he was a Godsend. He worked all night long helping Daddy. At the store they built a rack and put all the sacks of sugar and everything up on it and when the came back, there wasn't anything but empty sacks left. Old Man Tom lived down here. There was a whole row of houses down there on that old

MR. JORDAN -- Right. \$800 and \$900 worth of sugar in 100 pound bags. We bought stuff in big quantities then. I got it up 6 feet high and I thought that would be high enough. We put all the merchandise we could up in the vault of the store and we turned the squirrels out. We had two squirrels out there in a cage by the side of the store and they played on a big wheel all the time. They'd gotten so tame that when I turned them out, they wouldn't go off, they just stayed around here. But when I came back up here (we waited 30 days) those squirrels had cut a hole in that wall up there and they'd found all the crackers and the grits and how they knew it, they must have sook those things. and his wife, a little old English lady, had tea every evening.

Anything they could eat they opened the packages up and they ate and they were just living the Life of Riley. And after we came back, we never would put them back in the cage, but they stayed around here, sat up on the railroad track and would bark at the train when it would come and finally after about a year they went off in the woods and I reckon somebody killed them. I wouldn't let anybody shoot them. Jed Coleman watched them for years. He hunted every morning and he'd tell me, "Well, I saw Ole Black Dolly on the rail this morning and started to shoot that rascal, but he sat up there and coughed at me and barked and I run him on off the road." We had a fox squirrel and a black squirrel.

Ed Coleman and them lived down here on this old place. They were already here. They moved in Dr. Stubblefield's house after he left here. He was one of the early settlers. He was the first full-fledged doctor that came here. The others were just students. Ed Coleman's brothers names were Claude and Henry.

MRS. JORDAN -- They were old bachelors. Old Man Tom lived down here. There was a whole row of houses down there on that old _____ and Old Man Tom Coleman had all these boys -- that's Claire Coleman and his son, Claire.

MR. JORDAN -- They had a sawmill right up here too at Sequin's Mill, right up here about a mile and, of course, James was doing a big business here in those days, heading bolts and logs and a log train would come down here and fill up about 40 or 50 cars of logs while they train stood out there and waited for you to make the weigh bills for them.

MRS. JORDAN -- We had an old man in here by the name of Mr. Bardman. He was from England. He and his wife, a little old English lady, had tea every evening.

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...He wanted every morning and he'd tell me, "Well, I saw Ole Black Dolly
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...black squirrels.
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...We had an old man in here by the name of Mr. Barlow. He was from England.
...a little old English lady, had ten every evening.

MR. JORDAN -- Papa had a sawmill. He'd buy timber and sell it and bring it out here and
load it in boxcars -- heading bolts they called them. They made barrels out of them, beer
barrels and whiskey barrels called White Oak and Red Oak. Some of them went to Kentucky.

Right after they found the oil field in Tinsley, it must have been in 1948 and in the 50's,
they drilled for oil and found a dry hole, I guess it was. They said they had struck oil
once. Then all of a sudden, they sealed it over and pulled up the rig and left. They
never did come back so, evidently, it was a dry hole. There was a lot of open land around
this country then. The Erickson place on Wolf Lake and where Sam Coker is now, that was
right along the lake bank. The didn't tear up much land; they just followed the bank's
highest parts around because they had water in here, nearly every year. What finally
solved the problem was levees and cutting this auxilliary channel. I bought plenty of
land for \$10 an acre from the Powell Estate. Old Man Joe Powell died and I bought it
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MR. JORDAN -- Papa had a sawmill. He'd buy timber and sell it and bring it out here and load it in barrels -- heading poles they called them. They made barrels out of them, beer barrels and whiskey barrels called White Oak and Red Oak. Some of them went to Kentucky.

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