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Lawrence Edward Pickard, Oral History Index

Lawrence Edward Pickard

Marcia Lair

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Interview with Lawrence Edward Pickard conducted by Marcia Lair

February 27, 2020

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00:00:01	Introductions and general information; 2/27/2020
00:00:50	Born 3/3/1954, in Paris, Texas. Parents – Lawrence Edward Pickard & [Nina] Amalie Lassiter Pickard. Mother graduated from East Texas State University and taught at Rosa Pearson School in Paris, TX until she married & moved to Pecan Gap, TX. Paternal grandparents Lawrence Elmer Pickard and Laura Ross Pickard. Older sister, Linda Ann Pickard Desmond?
00:03:15	Father, Lawrence Edward Pickard - joined U.S. Navy in 1936 or 1938; called up again after Pearl Harbor. Mother Amalie Lassiter was teaching at Rosa Pearson then.
00:03:57	Daily life at home. Memory of first TV. Willie Woods worked for father, helping raise calves & pigs. After school, helped feed 100 calves. Story about the pigs. Change in size of farms from then to now.
00:06:28	Other childhood remembrances – went to the Methodist church, friend Bill Olson in Sunday School class, Ann [Yeager] Parrish was the teacher; Ann’s mother, Ethel Yeager was also a Sunday School teacher. Ethel’s husband, Oscar Yeager was an influence in Ed’s life.
00:07:50	Pilgrim’s Rest Baptist Church – started on FM 64, moved to current location in 1940’s. The Black school was close by.
00:09:10	More on his childhood – Randy Conley was a friend, worked together for years. Chicken story, involving Randy, Ray Godfrey, and Grady Duncan. Story about protest against the first stop sign that appeared in Pecan Gap.
00:13:20	Segregation story from Junior High days. Dick & Fanny Tubbs’ son & Billy Don King – students from the Black School (Clark). Black teachers that came over to Pecan Gap – Mr. & Mrs. Askey?, also a Mrs. Wright
00:17:10	Graduated from Fannindel School, was in the first class at Fannindel. Good friends with Ronnie Joe Burns and Mike Woodard. Story about the Ladonia kids coming one day – fight with Larry Hoskison began their unusual friendship.
00:21:15	Attended East Texas State University – his great-uncle Doc Pickard (was a medical doctor) paid his tuition. Story about Doc.
00:24:40	Hugh Robinson was grandfather’s best friend. Story about going to the Huntsville Prison rodeo.
00:25:30	Christmas is favorite holiday. Remembrances of Christmas past.
00:28:07	Memories of baseball in school with Gary Don Anderson, Randy Conley
00:30:45	Favorite home-cooked meal – skillet meat loaf – grandmother.
00:32:00	High school memories about he and Randy Conley, cousin Tim Richardson and a Black buddy, Mike Armstrong, whose father worked for Don Cauley – football, feeding pigs & cows, hay baling.
00:38:15	Memory of contest to name the new school in Pecan Gap – Marvin Page won, with the name, “Fannindel”. Marvin became an Ag teacher at McKinney and a baseball coach at Fannindel. Glenn Fields was a basketball coach.
00:39:50	First coach was Sam Merrill. Story about finally being chosen for the 3rd/4th grade baseball team
00:41:20	Differences in family farming then and now. He bought the first round-hay baler in Delta County when he was 18. Story about an early experience with the baler and T.C. Wilhite

00:46:10	Growing up knowing future wife Karen Jones Pickard, who lived in Ladonia, TX. Early married years in rent house – story of ice storm New Year’s 1979 – no power or water for weeks, Karen was 8 months pregnant. Getting a loan to build a house. Had 2 daughters, Lindsey and Katie. Now has 2 grandchildren, by Lindsey – Titus Ezekiel Gable and Audrey Ryan Gable.
00:56:35	Memories of Pecan Gap stores – John Reid Cash Grocery, Parrish Grocery
00:57:00	Memories of Saturday nights as a teenager
00:59:00	Story about he and Shannon Davis at the Fort Worth Live Stock Show when he was a freshman
01:01:22	No military service; memory of draft number and reading about daily numbers of troops killed in Vietnam
01:04:00	Major events – Cooper Lake project – memories of Dick Tubbs’ involvement.
01:06:50	Biggest changes in Delta County in his life – church memberships are declining, school losing students – all due to general decline in local population
01:07:54	Memory of JFK assassination
01:08:42	Public service – Mayor ProTem of Pecan Gap, 30 years on the Delta County Water Board, member of Fannindel School Board, Sunday School teacher.
01:10:00	1980 – ran out of water – lake was dry, the story made a 60 Minutes segment.
01:15:00	O.J. Koney, a coach in Pecan Gap, invented the Koney Board
01:16:10	Advice for future generations – living the country life in Delta County is much nicer than life in the city.
01:17:50	One more story – Zelda Fisher of Cooper, TX brought the plight of the Giles Cemetery to his attention. He and Dewey Marsh are the ex-officio members of the Giles Cemetery Association. They helped restore the cemetery grounds. Advises future generations to take care of overgrown cemeteries in Delta County
01:20:25	More about Zelda Fisher and her contributions to the Giles Cemetery restoration.