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Arby D. Gillaspay

Interviewee

Prisalla P. Ghansen

Director

Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin
Regional Library

Monticello, Mississippi

Address

May 31, 1978

Date of Agreement

Life in Lawrence County, MS: college life in the early nineteen hundreds.

Subject of Tape(s)

An Interview with
Mrs. John David Gillaspy, Sr.
January 21, 1977

Interviewed by
Mrs. Evelyn Benham

Mississippi
Department of Archives and History
and the
Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library
Oral History Project
Monticello and Vicinity

Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library
Oral History
Data Sheet

FULL NAME Mrs. John David (Ruby) Gillaspy, Sr.
ADDRESS Monticell, MS PHONE 587-2285
BIRTHPLACE Lawrence County, MS DATE OF BIRTH July 10, 1888
EDUCATION Grade school; Beeson's Female College, Meridian, MS

OCCUPATION Homemaker

TRAVELS Has traveled throughout the USA with daughter

SPOUSE'S FULL NAME John David Gillaspy, Sr.
BIRTHPLACE Crystal Springs, MS DATE OF BIRTH February 13, 1882
OCCUPATION Merchant

NUMBER OF CHILDREN Three (3)

NAMES OF CHILDREN
Burnell Gillaspy
John David Gillaspy, Jr.
Robert Hilliard Gillaspy

FATHER'S FULL NAME Thomas Hunter Smith
BIRTHPLACE North Carolina DATE OF BIRTH 1833
OCCUPATION Farmer

MOTHER'S FULL NAME Sarah Emma Byrd
BIRTHPLACE Pinola, MS DATE OF BIRTH Unknown
OCCUPATION Homemaker

MAJOR NATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE DISCUSSED

INTERVIEWEE'S AREA OF INTEREST AND/OR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Mrs. Gillaspy discussed college life - what young ladies did, wore, how they were supposed to behave. Wedding arrangements, her married homelife, her husband's business, the Pea Vine railroad, and the cyclone (tornado).

January 21, 1977 Evelyn Benham
DATE INTERVIEWER

Monticello, Mississippi
PLACE OF INTERVIEW

Mrs. John David Gillaspy, Sr.
INTERVIEWEE'S NAME

BENHAM: Mrs. Gillaspy, what is your full maiden name?

GILLASPY: Just Ruby Smith.

BENHAM: You are called a different name by your friends and the towns-
people, are you not? What is it?

GILLASPY: Well, some call me Miss Ruby and some call me Mrs. Gillaspy.

BENHAM: But they mostly call you Miss Ruby, isn't it?

GILLASPY: MY close friends. Some of them just call me plain Ruby.
But people that have known me a long time call me Miss Ruby.

BENHAM: What is the date of your birth and your birthplace?

GILLASPY: July 10, 1888, is my birthday and I was born three (3) miles
north of Monticello on a farm that belonged to my grandfather.

BENHAM: And what was his name? What is your grandfather's name?

GILLASPY: Alvin Smith. And my father is Thomas Hunter Smith.

BENHAM: Alright, is that his full name, Thomas Hunter Smith?

GILLASPY: That's right.

BENHAM: And would you give me the date of his birth and his birth-
place? When was he born, can you remember that?

GILLASPY: My daddy?

BENHAM: Yes, your father.

GILLASPY: He was born in North Carolina and moved to Monticello
when he was twelve (12) years old with his family - his father and mother and
two (2) sisters and two (2) brothers.

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BENHAM: Well, do you remember when he was born? Can you remember that?

GILLASPY: He was born in 1833 in North Carolina.

BENHAM: What was your father's occupation at this time?

GILLASPY: Well, he inherited the home place - the grandfather's place - and he ran it with colored help. They had several Negro families on it and he grew cotton and other things on the farm as long as he was able.

BENHAM: Now, was this in Monticello?

GILLASPY: On the farm, three (3) miles north of Monticello.

BENHAM: Alright, now will you please tell me your mother's full name, her date of birth, and where she was born?

GILLASPY: Well, I really don't know the day or the month that she was born in. Her name was Sarah Emma Byrd.

BENHAM: Was she born in North Carolina?

GILLASPY: No. She was born in Mississippi. Over in Pinola, over in that area.¹ It wasn't a town then.

BENHAM: Now, I'd like to know, did your mother work outside of the home?

GILLASPY: No. Girls didn't work outside of the home then.

BENHAM: Miss Ruby, you said that your grandfather built a private school. Is this where you first started to go to school?

GILLASPY: Oh, no. That was a long time before I was born. That was when they first moved to Mississippi from North Carolina.

BENHAM: Well, would you be able to describe the school, this school

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that you grandfather built?

GILLASPY: It was a private school. He hired his own teacher.

BENHAM: Well, was it just a one room schoolhouse?

GILLASPY: Now, the size of it and the way it was built I just don't know. But it was comfortable, because they went there in the winter and the summer too. It was blown away or something before I was born.

BENHAM: Well, where was this school that you went to? Was it close to where you lived when you started to go to school? How far was it from your house?

GILLASPY: The little schoolhouse was two (2) miles north of our home. That was the first school that was built out in that area and they had just a one room school with the one teacher.

BENHAM: Do you know the name of the little school?

GILLASPY: It didn't have a name.

BENHAM: Well, did you walk or did you ride to school?

GILLASPY: Well, I walked some of the time and we gathered children all along the way and we had a lot of fun going up there. It was two and a half (2½) miles from my home.

BENHAM: Well, did you go in a buggy or a wagon or what?

GILLASPY: Well, it depended on the weather. If it was pretty weather we walked; if it was bad weather we were carried up there.

BENHAM: Well, in what? Were you carried in a buggy?

GILLASPY: Buggy. That's all we had. A buggy and horse. We didn't

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have cars back then.

BENHAM: Alright. How old were you when you started college?

GILLASPY: I was sixteen (16) the first year.

BENHAM: And can you tell me the name of the college and where it was located?

GILLASPY: Well, it was called Beeson's Female College and it was two (2) miles from the city of Meridian.

BENHAM: Now, how did you get to school; how did you get to college?

GILLASPY: We'd go up on the train and we strictly stayed within the college territory. No one was allowed to go to town even without a teacher along.

BENHAM: When you got ready to leave home, how did you feel about leaving those that you knew and going to someplace else off away from home? How did you feel about it?

GILLASPY: Well, I was more or less elated. But when I got up there, I got homesick just like all children do, I guess.

BENHAM: And when you arrived on the campus, what were some of the first impressions about all this marvelous adventure of yours that you were undertaking?

GILLASPY: Well, they had a streetcar line out there two (2) miles from the city. And a teacher or some trusted girl in the college met all the trains and escorted everybody over on the streetcar out to the college which was two (2) miles from the city. I think I repeated that.

BENHAM: That's alright. Was there a certain dress uniform for all

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of the young ladies to wear?

GILLASPY: Oh, yes. We wore just ordinary clothes every day, but if we stuck our heads out or went to town or anything, we had to have a uniform. It was navy blue and everybody had one just alike and it was made in the college in the sewing room.

BENHAM: What was the dormitory life like? Did you have a roommate?

GILLASPY: Yes, I had two (2). In fact, there were four (4) in a room to start with and you had to pay extra for a room for two (2). And so one of my roommates and I paid this extra and we got a room to ourselves.

BENHAM: It is not too much difference, they sort of do something like that now, too.

GILLASPY: Is that right?

BENHAM: A little bit, you know. Sometimes they put even older people by themselves, but they have to pay a little extra to have this privilege. Now, can you tell me some of the rules that all of the students had to obey?

GILLASPY: Well, there were so many I don't know whether I can give you a representative of the whole business or not.

BENHAM: Well, just one or two rules.

GILLASPY: There was one thing that was different from the colleges now. They had just one bathromm on each floor and everybody had to put his name up at a certain time before they could get a bath. You just couldn't go in at any time and get a bath. And you could leave that there for weeks on the door. It was on the outside door and you had to go at that time or you forfeited your right to get there to get a bath that time.

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BENHAM: I see. Can you tell me something about the social activities on the campus, like dances and hayrides? I mean, what sort of things did you all do?

GILLASPY: We didn't. They had a drill, like an army drill, you know. And everybody had to drill for an hour from a certain hour to another in the afternoon after classes were over. We went out on a large open space where everybody had to go through that drill for an hour. That was the exercise we got.

BENHAM: I see. And so there were no dances.

GILLASPY: What?

BENHAM: Were there any dances?

GILLASPY: Heavens, no.

BENHAM: No hayrides, no picnics, nothing?

GILLASPY: Nothing. We entertained ourselves in the library, reading and visiting. And we didn't get to visit all the time. At certain hours you had to visit. And you had to strictly be in the dining room at a certain time to get anything to eat.

BENHAM: And if you didn't, it was just too bad.

GILLASPY: That's right, you did without.

BENHAM: And did they have a curfew when everybody had to be in the dormitory?

GILLASPY: Oh, yes. And all the lights had to be out at a certain time.

BENHAM: Were there any young men around at this college close by

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to come over and see anyone?

GILLASPY: The male college was just up on a hill, I'd say a quarter of a mile, maybe, not very far up there. But no indeed, there was no visiting with men. And if you had a man visitor it didn't matter if it was a member of your family, you had to get permission to meet him down in the living room. It was altogether different from anything that's in existence now.

BENHAM: Where did you meet your future husband, Miss Ruby?

GILLASPY: Here in Monticello. He came and put in a little store at first and gradually enlarge it, but he was here for several years before we married.

BENHAM: Well, could you give me his full name, date of birth and birthplace?

GILLASPY: John David Gillaspy was born February 13, 1882.

BENHAM: And where was he born?

GILLASPY: Where was I born?

BENHAM: No. Where was your husband born?

GILLASPY: Crystal Springs.

BENHAM: That's in Mississippi, isn't it?

GILLASPY: Oh, yes. It's up there.

BENHAM: What kind of occupation was your future husband in at this time that you married him?

GILLASPY: He was a merchant. He came here and put up a store. That was his first work. And after he got out of college, he was in the mercantile business.

BENHAM: All right, now let me ask you this, the young ladies who

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wanted to get married, did they first get engaged? Did they all do this, get engaged first before they got married?

GILLASPY: Well, I suppose they did. All I knew they did.

BENHAM: How long was the average engagement in those days?

GILLASPY: It was just left up to the person, however they wanted to.

BENHAM: How long were you engaged?

GILLASPY: Well, I don't remember, a year-and-a-half, Im sure there was that much.

BENHAM: Alright. Miss Ruby, how did you feel when you became engaged? Were you excited? Oh, I am going to soon have my own home. What are some of the thoughts that went through your mind when you became engaged?

GILLASPY: I don't remember that far back.

BENHAM: Alright. Let's see now, where did you keep the articles that you were saving for your future home? Where did you keep them?

GILLASPY: The articles?

BENHAM: The articles that you were going to have in your new home, like curtains or pillowcases. Where did you keep them? Did you put them in a drawer or a box?

GILLASPY: That used to be the entertainment. A lot of them would meet together and embroider things and they got a hope chest just like they do today.

BENHAM: And you said that the young ladies got together and they embroidered things for your hope chest?

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GILLASPY: Yes.

BENHAM: Did you have a trousseau?

GILLASPY: No. I just had a wedding dress, And a few others, not too much.

BENHAM: Well, could you tell me about your wedding day? The date. Can you give me the date that you were married?

GILLASPY: It was June 24, 1909.

BENHAM: Can you remember the day that you got married, was the sun shining? You know there is a superstition about the sun shining on a new bride. What was that superstition?

GILLASPY: Well, I didn't run away to marry, but I met him in Brookhaven and we were married by a preacher over there. Just went to the parsonage and were married by a preacher, and we spent the night in Brookhaven and went on down to New Orleans the next morning and across to Biloxi. That's where we spent our honeymoon.

BENHAM: No, no what I mean was, was the sun shining? You know there is an old saying that "Happy is the bride that the sun shines on." Was the sun shining on that day, can you remember?

GILLASPY: Well, it was.

BENHAM: Oh, that's marvelous. I'm so glad that it was. Where was your first home when you came back from your honeymoon?

GILLASPY: Well, we boarded for awhile with a maiden lady, Miss Hattie Cooper, and we stayed there several months. Then we got a house, rented a

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home, and we lived there for a year-and-a-half and then we bought a home.

BENHAM: And where you are living now, is this the home that you bought?

GILLASPY: No. The home that we bought first is on the river bluff now. But when we moved there, there were three (3) bluffs. All of them have washed away but one (1).

BENHAM: I see.

GILLASPY: Now.

BENHAM: And that was on Pearl River?

GILLASPY: Yes.

BENHAM: Can you remember the kind of meal you cooked in your first home when you came back?

GILLASPY: I cooked whatever I could get.

BENHAM: Well, maybe you had grits, or hominy grits. You don't remember what you had?

GILLASPY: No. I wasn't much of a cook, I mean.

BENHAM: Well, I didn't know how to cook either, so it's okay. What was it like to be a bride in those days so long ago?

GILLASPY: Same as it now, I guess.

BENHAM: Miss Ruby, how many children were you and your husband blessed with, and give me their names please.

GILLASPY: We had three (3): one (1) girl and two (2) boys. The girl's name was Burnell and the older boy was named for his father, John David

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Gillaspy, Jr., and the younger boy was Robert Hilliard Gillaspy. He is named for his father's brother and my aunt's husband, I guess you would say. My aunt who reared me, her name was Hilliard and I just put a representative from each family. My husband's brother and my aunt who reared me was Mrs. Hilliard.

BENHAM: You know, I have been so interested in the Hilliards, and of course we live in a home that was built by the Hilliards.

GILLASPY: That is not the home of my family, though, you see. Mine is up there at the old Smith place.

BENHAM: But you said that you were raised by your Aunt Hilliard. What was her name?

GILLASPY: She was named for the queen of England. Her family came from England. Her name was Victoria. Emily was her mother's sister and then for the queen of England. Victoria Emily Smith was her name and she married Robert Carter Thomas Sidneyham Hilliard.

BENHAM: Yes, I know.

GILLASPY: That's always been a mouthful to me. You will take some of that out when you get to your permanent copy, won't you?

BENHAM: Well, it's so interesting, you know so much about the history of this, around this thing, you know I would like to keep it all in, but you will get a copy to read over. I have heard it mentioned that you and your husband once owned a clothing store. Is this correct?

GILLASPY: Clothing store?

BENHAM: A clothing store.

GILLASPY: No, it was groceries and he had an ice cream parlor -

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the first one that was put in Monticello.

BENHAM: Did you sell any cloth?

GILLASPY: A little. We had a few shoes, a little cloth, and notions like pins and hairpins and things like that. They didn't have all the things they have now, back then. That was sixty-five (65) years ago.

BENHAM: Oh, I think it's amazing that you can remember as well as you do.

GILLASPY: Oh, that is characteristic of old people to remember the past.

BENHAM: Do you recall the different kind of cloth like, we don't have that, we have a lot of polyester and all that, and then it wasn't known as that, but you had other kinds of cloth. Can you name some of the kinds of cloth that were sold at that time?

GILLASPY: Well, this was a cotton raising state. We had cotton goods, wool goods, and that was about it. We had silk.

BENHAM: Did you have anything called crepe de chine?

GILLASPHY: Well, that came to the market later. Are you talking about when we first married?

BENHAM: No, just anytime you had your little store, you know, just at any time, what kind of cloth did they have? Did they have pongee? I remember hearing that when I was a child, pongee.

GILLASPY: No, not at that time, we didn't. We had calico and gingham.

BENHAM: Did you have muslin?

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GILLASPY: Like what?

BENHAM: Muslin. It is a very soft cloth that they usually made baby clothes out of.

GILLASPY: Oh yes. We had that.

BENHAM: And what about voile?

GILLASPY: We had that.

BENHAM: And Organdy?

GILLASPY: Yes. We didn't have a regular dry goods store, but he just worked in a little bit of that with his others.

BENHAM: Well, you said you had things like shoes and clothes.

GILLASPY: He carried a few shoes, too.

BENHAM: This is rather personal, but then in a way it's not. I know how much and you know how much clothes cost today. How much would you say a pair of shoes cost sixty-five (65) years ago?

GILLASPY: Well, you could get a nice pair of shoes for a dollar-and-a-half and for two (2) or three (3) dollars it was just tops.

BENHAM: Did your husband have these things shipped in by railroad or did you order these things from a peddler that would come through, a salesman?

GILLASPY: No. He ordered his things from New Orleans and Jackson and wherever he could get what he wanted. And at first they had regular wagons, I think they'd call them, and way back they were pulled by oxen. Then they got to where they put mules on. Oh, I have been through all from way back.

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BENHAM: I remember that at one time that your husband owned a cotton gin. Was it the first one in the county?

GILLASPY: No no. It was the first one he had. There were cotton gins - one in Silver Creek - and then there were cotton gins in Columbia and almost every town of any size. This was not a big town, but it was an old town, a very old town.

BENHAM: Can you tell me where this cotton gin was located?

GILLASPY: It was right in the corner of that turn down there, you know where Edward Peeler's place, and it faced the town. No, it didn't. It didn't have any face, did it?

BENHAM: As I remember it, it looked out over Highway 84, and it came off the main railroad. A branch from the railroad, a spur.

GILLASPY: Well, we had a seedhouse that opened on to what they called the Pea Vine at the time - that was the first little railroad that went into Brookhaven - and the train would back up there and load the seed and it was shipped to Jackson.

BENHAM: And was the G. M. & O. a part of this Pea Vine railroad?

GILLASPY: No, the gin belonged to him. But there was a railroad spur that came down and picked up that stuff before they... What's the name of this road that goes through New Orleans now?

BENHAM: Is that the Illinois Central?

GILLASPY: The Illinois Central. That was before the Illinois Central was put in here.

BENHAM: I see. Can you tell me how this land was acquired for the

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railroad? Did people give some land away for the railroad for this Pea Vine Railroad?

GILLASPY: No, they bought the land. They bought so many feet.

BENHAM: Where did they buy it from? Do you remember that?

GILLASPY: No, I don't.

BENHAM: Alright, well, that's all right, I'll get that from someone else. Miss Ruby, you said that you found a newspaper clipping telling about the Methodist church. Can you tell me about that now?

GILLASPY: Well, that's what I was looking for awhile ago. I want you to read it.

BENHAM: You said the Methodist church was the first church in Monticello. What happened to it? You said a cyclone...

GILLASPY: Blew it away. Well, it was on the lot where Ellis Cooper's filling station is now and it was a large brick church. And I told you about my great-uncle,² they lacked a thousand dollars, it looked like they were stalled. And he said, well, that they would put a proviso in it that all denominations and all colors and anybody who wanted to worship God would be allowed to worship in there. And they agreed and he paid the church out. But they worshipped in there until - it was built in 1844 and the cyclone that destroyed Monticello in this area out here blew everything away. There was just a few bricks left.

BENHAM: Do you remember when the cyclone came through, the year it came through?

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GILLASPY: It was in 1872, wasn't it? No, that's not right.

BENHAM: Well, that's all right, I will look it up in the records.

GILLASPY: It's on record there in the courthouse?

BENHAM: Yes, it is. And I will look it up and we'll find out.

GILLASPY: I have a history of that thing. That's what I was looking for awhile ago and I didn't find it.

BENHAM: You know, I saw some flower beds out in your yard. Is flower gardening one of your hobbies?

GILLASPY: Yes, that was my hobby. And I have loved flowers all my life. When I was just a baby, a little thing, I'd get hold of a flower and go out and stick it in the dirt and it would grow.

BENHAM: You had a green thumb even from the beginning, didn't you?

GILLASPY: Well, that's what they called it. I have been a lover of flowers all my life.

BENHAM: Surely you have a philosophy? Would you like to share it with us by telling us what it is?

GILLASPY: I hadn't thought about it that I did have one. But I have always tried to accept what comes and do the best I can and get through it. With the Lord's help I've come this far.

BENHAM: Miss Ruby, before we stop would you tell me something about the ice cream parlor that your husband had? You mentioned it earlier in our conversation.

GILLASPY: Well, he put, I imagine it was about 1907 or 1908 when

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he put that. He sold ice cream when he first came here and he put up that building out there, but it's the building that is next to the old bank, you know, that was his. His daddy put that building up for him.

BENHAM: Well, where was this located now?

GILLASPY: Next to the bank or the old bank. It wasn't on the corner. It was between it and Hickman's store.

BENHAM: Where was the old bank located?

GILLASPY: Oh, it was on the corner there. Let's see, who had that?

BENHAM: Was that where the post office was?

GILLASPY: You know where the Fantasy store is, don't you?

BENHAM: The what?

GILLASPY: Fantasy.

BENHAM: Oh yes, yes. I know where that is.

GILLASPY: Well, now it - the old bank, the Fantasy store was there, then the old, I mean my husband's store was next to it, and the bank was on the corner next to the old store.

BENHAM: Oh yes, oh yes, I know now where it is, yes.

GILLASPY: And, in fact, that wall joined. They just had one wall there and since they, they're going to tear the old bank away, I just wondered what they'd do about the store wall. It was just one wall for both stores, you see.

BENHAM: Yes.

GILLASPY: Well, he sold ice cream. He had the ice cream soda foun-

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tain and he sold ice cream there before he built this little room that he served it in where people could sit down to tables. He had three (3) tables - three (3) marble-topped tables in there and chairs and they could sit there and visit all they wanted to.

BENHAM: Now was this ice cream parlor in your husband's store?

GILLASPY: Yes.

BENHAM: Okay. Well, what kind of chairs were they? Were they something like what I am sitting in?

GILLASPY: Something like that, but they had iron grill back and they were very much like that. In fact, those were in there. They came from down there. After he bought the Hickman store, he moved that ice cream parlor in there. He had groceries and a little of this and that.

BENHAM: Was there someone to wait on the customers who wanted ice cream?

GILLASPY: Well, no, any clerk that happened to be up to the front waited on the customers that came in to the soda fountain and the ice cream. He had it together. Now in the old store, in the little store, he had just a room walled off for his ice cream parlor, but after he moved to the other store, they didn't, they just had the tables out there. It was plenty big enough to put the tables out there and chairs, and so they just used it like that.

BENHAM: Did you decorate your walls in any way where the ice cream was sold, like they do today?

GILLASPHY: No more than to keep it painted. And in that building,

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that bigger building there, it had an offset on the front.

BENHAM: Offset? What does that mean?

GILLASPY: Oh, where they kept the ice cream. And that was a show window really, and they didn't keep the ice cream out there, they kept it in there where the fountain was inside the store. But this little offset wasn't separate from the store. It was kind of a dormer window thing. It was just glasses in all the way around.

BENHAM: Yes, I think I have seen those, a long time ago. Where did you get your ice cream?

GILLASPY: Well, he got it out of Jackson awhile and then he got it out of Brookhaven.

BENHAM: Well, how did it come from Jackson and Brookhaven? How did it come? Did they have ice on the truck or something to take care of the ice cream when it was shipped from Jackson?

GILLASPY: They had a delivery truck with ice. It was kept in an ice, I don't know what they call it, anyway it was cold when it got there. It was frozen when it got to us.

BENHAM: And how did you store the ice cream when it got to your place? To your store?

GILLASPY: Well, he had a soda fountain. Then there was a space underneath the, you know, that had a, what do you call that?

BENHAM: I don't know.

GILLASPY: Where you put the drinks and things and set it out for the people. If they wanted to they could stand there at the fountain and drink it,

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or eat the cream. But they could take it, they had tables in there.

BENHAM: No, I don't know what you called it?

GILLASPY: ...one big building there?

BENHAM: Well, did you put them in jars? Did you put the ice cream in jars or something?

GILLASPY: Ma'am?

BENHAM: Did you put your ice cream in a jar or container? What kind of a container?

GILLASPY: Well, it came in so many gallons, maybe a five-gallon container like an ice cream freezer like.

BENHAM: I see.

GILLASPY: Well, it was frozen when it got here, and he put it in there and it stayed frozen.

BENHAM: That's amazing for way back then.

GILLASPY: It was electically kept, just like it is now like in other places. It wasn't any different then from now.

BENHAM: Yes, alright. What flavors did you have?

GILLASPY: What flavors? All flavors.

BENHAM: Well, can you name some of the flavors that you had?

GILLASPY: Well, people mostly preferred vanilla. But he had others. Strawberry, orange, any, most any kind you wanted. Chocolate.

BENHAM: Yes.

GILLASPY: It wasn't much different from what you have now. Even if it was sixty (60) years ago.

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BENHAM: Sixty (60) years ago. Right. What did you scoop the ice cream up with?

GILLASPY: Regular ice cream scoop, just like you do now. They had, you know, you dip it up and it has something that pushed it out. You just squeezed the handle and it would go out in the saucer.

BENHAM: I see. What was the busiest day of the week for you people?

GILLASPY: Well, I would say Saturday, mostly. That's when the people came in to get their week's supply of food.

BENHAM: Alright. How long did you have your ice cream parlor?

GILLASPY: Ma'am?

BENHAM: How many years did you have your ice cream parlor?

GILLASPY: Oh, I don't know, as long as he stayed in the store. Of course when he got sick, he had turn it over to, you know, hired help. That wasn't too satisfactory. Of course John was called in the, he had to serve in the Army. Went to India, the China-Burma-India area down there. It's the worst place in the world. They couldn't even eat anything. Not one thing. Fruit or anything else that grew in that area. They were so filthy. Now is this being recorded?

BENHAM: That's all right, that's all right. I mean, that's good to know about it.

GILLASPY: But they fertilize everything with human...

BENHAM: Manure.

GILLASPY: You know.

BENHAM: Right.

GILLASPY: What do they call that, excretion?

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BENHAM: Yes.

GILLASPY: Something like that. And it was so unsanitary, and John said everything down there smelled, you couldn't stand it. Now that's off the record, isn't it?

BENHAM: That's all right. We can just erase that in the tape. Well, do you remember how long, when was it that someone else came in?

GILLASPY: That who came in?

BENHAM: You know, when you had your ice cream parlor. How long was it before somebody else decided to try an ice cream parlor?

GILLASPY: Well, Dr. Alford had a drug store here. He had been selling ice cream all along, but he didn't have an ice cream parlor, he just sold it from a fountain, soda fountain.

BENHAM: Did you have any special name for your little ice cream parlor?

GILLASPY: Have any what?

BENHAM: Did you have a special name, you know, a real special name for your ice cream parlor?

GILLASPY: ...everything. Like they do now.

BENHAM: Well, I mean, did you have a name for it like the Better Ice Cream Parlor or some kind of a name, Gillaspy's Ice Cream Parlor? Did you have a name for it? Did you have a name for your little ice cream parlor?

GILLASPY: No, we didn't.

BENHAM: Alright. What time of day did you sell the most ice cream? What time of day? Did you sell more ice cream in the afternoon or more in

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the morning or when did you sell the most?

GILLASPY: Well, I would say late in the afternoon was the best time of the day. People would be out, children, so on.

BENHAM: Was your ice cream parlor opened on Sunday?

GILLASPY: No.

BENHAM: Did you have any special hours when you served your ice cream?

GILLASPY: No.

BENHAM: Did you ever sell any ice cream in bulk for weddings or parties?

GILLASPY: Yes, if they wanted it.

BENHAM: Well, Mrs. Gillaspy, I have enjoyed this interview with you. Thank you very much for giving us some glimpses into the past.

GILLASPY: Well, you are most welcome. And if I have said anything to help you, I'm glad and if I haven't, well, you can just scratch it out.

BENHAM: Right. Alright, this is the end of the interview.

(End of Interview)

(Transcribed by Evelyn Benham)

(Transcriber's Notes)

¹Westville was the name of the area at that time; it later became Pinola.

²Larkin Smith