

LUM 166A

Barton interview w/
Mrs. Elizabeth Williams

typist: Wells

12-21-73

B: This is December 21, 1973. I am Lew Barton recording for the
Univeristy of Florida's American Indian Oral History Pro-
gram. This afternoon we are in my home at 114-C Dial Ter-
race, here in Pembroke, North Carolina and with me consenting
to an interview is Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, of Matthews,
North Carolina. That's M-a^{-t-}t-h-e-w-s, Mrs. Williams?

W: That's right.

B: And did I get your name right?

W: That's right.

B: How long have you lived in Matthews?

W: Oh, about twenty-three years.

B: Could you tell us just where Matthews is?

W: Well, it's about ten miles out of Charlotte, North Carolina,
on old Monroe Road, Highway 74.

B: Uh, huh. Are you a native of Robeson County?

W: Yes, I am.

B: Are you a Lumbee Indian?

W: Yes, I am.

B: Well, you look pretty much Caucausian to me. How, how ^{would} ~~do~~ you
explain that?

W: Well, uh, ... a lots ^{of} of Indians do not look like Indians; some
of us look like whites, some of us look like Indians. So I

guess we were more white than Indian.

B: Do you think there's truth then in the proposition that we originated with the "Lost Colony" of England?

W: Yes, I believe that's true.

B: How long, you say you've been in Matthews twenty-three years?

W: Um, huh.

B: How many children do you have?

W: Six.

B: Could you tell me their names and ages?

W: Oh, well, the oldest one was born in 1934, and the second was 1935, and 1941, and 1945, and 1953, and 1960.

B: OK, those, that's good.

W: That's their birthdays.

B: Now could you give us their names in that order?

W: Well, my oldest child was a girl--Nicki Baker, she lives in Charlotte. The second one was Lloyd Junior, he's named for his father, he lives in Tampa, Florida. And the second one is Rita Hansen ...

B: Third one, you mean.

W: I mean the third one. She lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

And the fourth is Bessie Stone, she lives in Charlotte.

And ^{have I} ~~the~~ left out one somewhere?

B: I don't know.

W: Rebecca was born in Charlotte. ~~She's~~ ^{she's} at home. ~~She's~~ only thirteen years old.

B: And cute as a button. Had you rather live in Charlotte than Pembroke, or am I putting you on the spot by asking you that?

- W: Well, we enjoyed livin' here when we were here, but at the time we left, it was hard to get work. My husband had to go away from home to work, and I didn't like that. I like him at home at night. So we moved off so he could get work. And we like living ' there and of course we lived, lived, we loved living here, too.
- B: I've heard it said that when Indian people leave Robeson County that eventually they come back. Do you think this is generally true?
- W: Well, we come back to visit often because a lot of our relatives are here, and we still love them all, and we wouldn't ever go off and and not come back.
- B: Well, we're always glad to see you when you come, too, because we got, we've got Indian people spread out just about everywhere now, haven't we?
- W: Yes, we have. There's lots of them in Charlotte and I understand there's lots in all the other towns, too.
- B: What do you do for, do you work yourself?
- W: Yes, I do.
- B: We haven't talked about what your husband does yet. And we must not leave him out. Who was it you married?
- W: I married Lloyd Williams, and he's retired at this time because of bad health.
- B: Is he an Indian too?
- W: Yes, he is.
- B: I had asked you a question previously, I was going to ask you

what do you do, or do you work or something like that? And then I thought we'd better talk about Lloyd for a moment. Do you work?

W: Yes, I do.

B: What do you do?

W: I have a greenhouse.

B: ~~You~~ have a greenhouse? Is this pretty hard? Tell me something about that, Liz. This sounds like a fantastic thing. Does it operate in the winter^{time}, too?

W: Yes, not as much as much as in the summer, but it's something that I really ~~like~~^{love} to do and when he had to retire, I had never worked outside the home. So we had to do something to make a living, so this ^{was} one of the things that I love to do although I didn't know what I was doing; I went into it blind. But so far we have been very successful with it.

B: Well, that's great. It's fascinating to me. Of course you being a woman you love flowers, don't you?

W: Oh, yes. They're really one of my favorite things and I love working in them and I guess that's why ~~my~~ the business ~~is~~ was a success because I do love to work with them.

B: Do you mind telling us your age?

W: I'm ~~sixty~~^{fifty}-seven.

B: ~~Sixty~~^{Fifty}-seven years young. ~~Is that~~ Right?

W: Right!

B: Well, back to the greenhouse. What kind of plants do you

grow? I mean do you sell plants or do you grown 'em to be full, fully grown flowers or what?

W: Yes, we grow...we have plants, we have all kinds of budding plants, which ^{you put} ~~fit~~ in the garden--tomatoes and peppers and things like that. And we have all the different kinds that you put in the yard, petunias and marigolds and things. And we also have grown pot plants, geraniums, begonias and just about any kind you can think of.

B: How long, well how did you get in ^{it}...how did you get in the notion of, of starting this ^{greenhouse?} ~~thing now?~~

W: Well, I really don't know how we happened to ... my sister and I started it together. And ...

B: Who is your ¹sister?

W: Barlia Godfrey. And we named the greenhouse Liz gay Greenhouse. Her name's Barlia, mine's Elizabeth. So we took part her name and part mine and made the name for the greenhouse.

B: What happened to her? Did she get discouraged or .. what happened? Did you dissolve the partnership?

W: Well, she had a back problem and couldn't work; had to stop workin' so I bought her out and I own it now by myself.

B: Well, I thought you had ... looks to me like you've got ... I came through there the other day, a friend of mine and I and it seemed to me like you had two greenhouses. Or am I counting the wrong way?

W: Yes, I do have two. We started out with one small one, and

now we have another one, bigger than the first one. and we could use another one if, if we could do the work.

B: Do you have any idea as to how much space you have? How much ground space?

W: Umm, I'm not sure. You know, women's not too keen on that kind of thing. All I know is that one house is about thirty by forty feet, and one's about eighteen by thirty.

B: Um, huh. That sounds like a fascinating job, and it also could be sort of a hobby, too. You can work at your own, doing your own hours at this, can't you? Or do you have, does this call you sort of like the farm--you have to go when it needs you?

W: That's right. It's like the farm. You can't call your life your own for a certain amount of months in the year. You have to go to it. If you're gonna make anything on it you have to really stay with it.

B: Do you think it would, do you think a greenhouse would work here in Pembroke, for instance?

W: I believe so.

B: uh, huh. Does it require a lot of, a big outlay of cash, or capital, and that sort of thing?

W: Well, it takes right much to get started. We did have to borrow money to get started with.

B: The plants you stock with--are they very expensive?

W: Ah, pretty expensive. The whole thing is pretty expensive

~~was pretty expensive~~ when you ^{count} ~~plant~~ everything in. ~~And~~

You have to buy soil and pots and peat moss and fertilizers and ... insecticides and just more things than you would ever imagine you'd have to have. We had no idea it would be so expensive to get started until we got into it.

B: Well, that's why, that's why then that you have to charge pretty well for your flowers and your plants, don't you?

W: Yes, we do, or you go in the hole.

B: You've got a lot of time invested and a lot of other things, too, haven't you?

W: That's right.

B: Do you ... are you bothered with certain diseases, plant diseases you have to watch out for this, too ?

W: Well, ^{so far} ~~first of all~~ we've been lucky. We haven't had any diseases, but we do have plenty of insects. We have to fight them all the time.

B: You mean, you're bothered with insects in the winter ^{time}, too?

W: Yes, even in the winter.

B: In other words, when they get this warm spot they come out of hiding or out of hibernation, whatever it is, don't they?

W: Yeah, you have to fight 'em tooth and nail to keep 'em down.

B: I don't know. Somehow I got the idea that since it was winter ^{time} you must not have this bug problem. But I

suppose bugs are around winter and summer, but they're not active when it's cold.

W: Well, they're not active outside, but in the greenhouse they are where it's nice and warm; and that's one of our biggest expenses is having to heat the greenhouse and right now it's a bigger problem than ever because of this gas and oil shortage.

B: Um, huh. Do you have trouble getting enough gas and oil to operate it?

W: Well, so far we haven't, but we're kind of afraid we might.

B: Uh, huh. Well, it, it all sounds very fantastic to me. I think maybe I'd enjoy something like that--I love pretty things, too. Since you moved away from Charlotte from, from Pembroke, have you had any problems at all with people because of the fact that you're an Indian?

W: No. No problems. Everybody ^{was} been really nice--just as nice as they could be.

B: But of course, Liz, you look now purely Caucausian and, and Lloyd looks purely Caucausian and the kids all look Caucausian, so do you think this helps?

W: Well, I don't know, I, all I know is that we haven't had any problems.

B: Of course, you tell people you are Caucausian, don't you?

W: No. No. If anybody asks ...

B: You mean you tell people you're Indian?

W: Well, really, nobody asks. If somebody asked me, I would, but nobody has asked me.

B: Well, of course, things have changed quite a bit since you left home, don't you think? Have you noticed ~~maybe~~ ^{any} ~~some~~ changes at all?

W: What do you mean?

B: Do things look different around Pembroke? Has Pembroke changed since much since you were here last?

W: Well, it's growin', it's getting larger, that's one thing that's happening to it.

B: Does it look about, all the growth that's taking place and they do say that Pembroke is the fastest growing town in North Carolina right now, but all this change can ^{you} hardly, it's hard to recognize it almost, isn't it?

W: That's right.

B: A lot of building going up, we got ... we've even got a chain store over here now, a few chain stores, two chain stores really. And ^{other things are} ~~everything's~~ changing, too. The enrollment of PSU is growing and so forth. Well, it's, we had to ^{grow} ~~do it~~ up some time. Do you remember what people used to say about Pembroke, Liz, [?] because this used to be, this used to be a mill pond right here where we are. Did you ever hear that Mr. Folger used to talk about it, the town clerk, do you remember him?

- W: Yes, I remember him, but I don't remember hearing ~~about~~ ^{and body}
~~his~~ Say it was like a, what did you call it?
- B: Well, before they had any, before there was a town here, it was a mill pond. That's what he always told me and he was, he was a pretty elderly gentleman. He was the town clerk for a long time.
- W: Well, I suppose he knew what he was talking about, but it certainly don't look like a mill ~~town~~ ^{pond} now.
- B: Right. It certainly has a different look about it. Uh, what, what differences have you noticed in living around Pembroke and living where you are? Where you are now, you're still in a rural area, around Matthews, wouldn't you say?
- W: Yes, that's right.
- B: And I guess most rural areas have some things in common. But have you noticed any differences?
- W: I don't believe there's any differences. The places are all .. the same, the people are the same; ~~so~~ ^{as} far as I can see there's no difference.
- B: Well, that's good to hear; you say that. Where do you go to church, Liz?
~~Sharon~~ Sharon Forest
- W: ~~John Forrest~~ Baptist church.
- B: ~~Sharon~~ Sharon ~~John Forrest~~ Baptist church. Is that near Matthews, too?
- W: Yes, it is.
- B: And you do have other relatives you said living in and around Charlotte?
- W: Yes, I do.
- B: Which gives it a homey atmosphere?

- W: Yes, that helps a lot.
- B: Do you ever get homesick for Pembroke really?
- W: If I didn't come as often as I do I would, but I don't stay away long enough to get homesick.
- B: That's good because we're always glad to see you come. If you had your choice, and could change something, any one thing in the world you wanted to, about Robeson county, what would it be? I know you haven't had time to think about that and I'm just asking it rather quickly, but can you think of anything you'd like to change if you had just the chance to change one thing?
- W: Well, as you say, I haven't had time to think about it and I, I really don't know--everything seems fine to me as it is.
- B: Um, huh. Children give you a lot of pleasure do they not, your children?
- W: Oh, yes.
- B: 'Course Nicky is the oldest one?
- W: Yes, she is.
- B: What does she do?
- W: She's a secretary.
- B: She's secretary for who?
- W: Well, Wilmington corporation in Charlotte.
- B: Uh, huh. She's quite a girl, too.
- W: Oh, yes.
- B: What do the other children do?
- W: Well, Barth is, uh drives trucks for Coke-Cola Company. And Lloyd Junior has been a truck driver, but right now he had his back hurt, and he's not workin'. Nicki works in

a photo place, and Rita doesn't work. She has two little boys so she has to ~~sit~~ stay home and take care of them. And Becky goes to school.

B: Well, Garth was quite an athlete, was he not? I seem to remember a lot of exciting newspaper writeups about him. How old is he now?

W: I'm really not sure, I would have to count it up. He was born in 19⁴71.

B: Uh, huh. And of course he's married now?

W: Yes.

B: And has a family?

W: He's married and has a little girl.

B: I seem to remember seeing some newspaper ~~articles~~ ^{clippings} about him when he was in school and so forth. What was his best sport?

W: Oh, he loved all kinds of sports, especially basketball, baseball, and he didn't play football too much, but the ^{other} "balls" he liked. But football, football was the one that he didn't play too much, but basketball and baseball he really liked.

B: Has he got a family, I mean are there children in his family?

I'm stuttering.

W: Well, he has one little girl.

B: ^{That's} Great. And they all come to see you very often, don't they?

W: Yes, they do.

B: Do you think you'll ever come back to Pembroke to live?

W: Well, I doubt it. I doubt that I will. We've been gone so

long now, I feel at home at Matthews although this still feels like home, too. But since I have my business there and we have our own home, I doubt if we'll ever come ^g back to live.

B: ^{Could} ~~Can~~ we talk for a moment about Lloyd, your husband? He's had a lot of trouble with operations and this sort of thing.

How many operations has he had? Major operations, I mean.

W: Well, he's had at least ten major ~~op~~^oerations.

B: Uh, huh. That's a lot of cutting, isn't it?

W: It certainly is.

B: What is his trouble, Liz?

W: Well, he first had to have three-fourths of his stomach removed and after that he started having intestinal blocks caused from the [unclear]. And he averaged about once a year having to have operations for intestinal blocks for about ten years.

B: And of course he, Lloyd, Lloyd is quite a guy. He has so much courage. He's taken all this; he hasn't let it get him down. He is just a great person. Don't you think he's fantastic?

W: Oh, yes, I do.

B: I've never heard him complain myself, but do you ever hear him complain?

W: Well, he doesn't complain much. And he don't let it get him down. He keeps going although he's really not able to.

B: Well, he has a great spirit and I'm sure he'll make, ~~don't~~ ^{aren't}

Sure of
you ~~feel~~ this?

W: Oh, yes, he will.

B: Yeah, you bet he will. He's made out of good stuff.

W: I think so too.

B: Lloyd is Indian, too, though, isn't he, Liz?

W: Yes, he is.

B: What does he ~~do~~ ^{do} to pass the time? Does he help you around the greenhouse? *too when he can?*

W: Yes, he helps me around the greenhouse when he can. In fact I couldn't get along without his help.

B: And he can always advise you, I'm sure. If he couldn't do a thing he could tell you, you know, 'cause he knows so many things about how to do so many things. He was always so handy with tools. Lloyd was a good carpenter, wasn't he?

W: That's right. He was a carpenter before he had to retire. But he, he's taken onto the flowers pretty good. He's beginning to learn a lot of the different ones, and he helps me to sell and helps me to water and, and gets ~~me~~ ^{the} soils ~~so I~~ ^{sterilized} *and ready for* ~~can raise~~ the plants. I really couldn't get along without him.

B: I know it. Well, it's a great just having him around.

W: Oh, yes, even if he couldn't do anything but just sit there, it would be nice to have him there.

B: There's nothing negative about Lloyd, he's always been a very positive kind of person, hasn't he?

W: That's right.

- B: I hope things will work out well for him. I ^{am sur^d} ~~know~~ they will--
with his spirit he just can't possibly lose.
- W: That's right.
- B: How long are you going to be in Pembroke?
- W: **I** guess we'll have to go back tomorrow.
- B: Well, I wish ~~in~~ you could stay longer.
- W: We can't stay away ~~from~~ ^{from} the greenhouse too long. This time
of the year we can lock it up and leave it for a short time,
but we can't stay away from it more than twelve hours at a
time.
- B: It certainly requires ~~alot~~ ^a lot of attention then, doesn't it?
- W: It really does. It requires ~~alot~~ ^a lot of work and attention. You
can't just walk off and leave ~~it~~ ^{it} any time you want to, that's
the only thing ^a I dislike about it is that I can't lock it up
and leave any time I want to.
- B: Do you want to let's talk about your parents and mine for a
while?
- W: If you like.
- B: Hey, I'll tell you what I want us to talk about. I'll spring
this now--you and I are sister and brother and you are the
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Barton, right?
- W: That's right.
- B: OK. I want you to let's talk about, I want you to, let's talk
about Poppa and ghosts.
- W: You know, Poppa, our dad, Parker, was a fantastic guy. And

there's a superstition among the Lumbee Indians ~~that~~ ^{if} you're born with a caul over your eyes. A "c-a-u-l." That you are gifted to see Spirits. Is this right? Is this the way you heard it?

W: I heard that.

B: And Poppa supposedly was born with a caul over his eyes. I'm not superstitious, but I'm fascinated by superstitions and I like to follow them. I want to talk about what happened. Did you, you know, ... what would happen when, when we talked about ghosts when Poppa was around?

W: Well, we'd just get scared out of our skins!

B: Do you think he was trying to frighten us, or do you think he really believed in ghosts?

W: No, I don't think he would ever try to frighten us. I think he ^{really} thinks he saw what he said he did. I think he really saw something. I don't believe in ghosts but I believe he did. And I believe he saw something.

B: Do you remember the story he used to tell about going to Pates early one morning to carry his grandfather on a buggy before day one morning?

W: Yes, I remember that.

B: Can you tell it the way he told it, Liz?

W: I don't know if I can or not. He said he, he was taking his grandfather to the train station one morning before daylight. And his grandfather told him to stay at the train station until daylight, but he decided that he wouldn't. So

he started home. And he said on his way home he saw a light ahead. And he thought, well, I'm glad somebody's travelling besides myself. But he said when the light got close to him it went out and it started smokin'. And he said it brushed against his buggy wheel and it looked like a little boy with a sheepskin in his mouth. And he said he was so scared that he didn't speak to his horse from there home.

B: And do you remember what he said was causing this light? ~~He~~ You didn't, do you remember him saying that the boy was on fire?

W: He said the fire was strangled out from the boy's body.

B: And he said he passed so close to the buggy's wheels that he couldn't have reached out and touched him with the buggy ~~wheel~~ whip.

W: That's what he said.

B: I wrote this up for the North Carolina Folklore Journal because it's, this is folklore--in the field of folklore. But I was wondering if, I, I was accurate enough and I wanted to check with you to make sure I was and I believe that story appears in the November 1971 issue of the North Carolina Folklore Journal. And it's in a story which I call^{ed}, well, this is one of several stories that I did, this is one of a story, of several stories which I entitled "Me-told Tales Along the Lumbee." Me-told. "Me-told Tales Along the Lumbee." and this is one of the stories he told.
Liz, tell, would you please tell what happened to you and me

when we were kids. This is still in the folklore field and this, in this, a description of this incident, too, in this particular article. And people were very fascinated by it. Could you tell in your own words what happened to you and me concerning that old house, old deserted house near Harmony school and, and the old machine .? Because if you don't tell it in your own words, people are going to

say Lew Barton's a liar. *They may not... they'll say it in their hearts if they don't tell me* but it's so fantastic that nobody could believe this. *But* so tell, would you tell in your own words what happened to us, you and me? I told/in the North Carolina Folklore Journal. Now will you tell it in your own words?

And let's see how far I am from telling it, you know, accurately.

W: Well, really it's been so long ago I probably don't remember a whole lot about it, but I do remember the incident happening. You and I had gone to this old house, as children will do. And we found this old sewing machine in one of the rooms. It was empty except for that. And we decided to take it home. And we finally got it home and I remember Dad saying that all of that night he could hear the sewing machine sewing.

B: But what had happened to the sewing machine previously?

W: I don't remember?

B: What had I done to it?

W: I don't remember.

B: Well, you know, I used to take anything apart ... that was

mechanically ~~....~~ .

W: ~~Um, huh~~ Anything

B: Because I wanted to see what made it tick. Even a clock. And of course when I started to put it back together I always had ~~seen~~ too many pieces.

W: That's right. You had taken it apart. But still he said he heard it sewin'; all night he heard somebody sewin' on it.

B: All night long.

W: He made us take it away the next morning. He said, when he left to go to work, he said he didn't want to see that machine when he came home. 'Cause he heard it sewing all night.

B: Actually I ...

.....-..

Side 2.

B: Side 2, of the interview with Mrs. Elizabeth Williams. We were talking about that fantastic sewing machine that I'd taken apart and I was going to explain to you that I had ~~faith in, in~~ ^{taken} the sewing mechanism out of the frame of the sewing machine. And I was going to use the pedal mechanism to ~~derive~~ ^{derive} some kind of toy or something. But I know I had torn the devil out of that sewing machine and ~~you~~ ^{it} couldn't possibly have sewed any in the first place and so there's no explaining what happened that night and the noise. I wonder why Poppa didn't ~~just~~ get up and investigate the matter. Do you, have you ever wondered that?

W: Not really. I don't know why he didn't get up and investigate

but I guess if he had he wouldn't have seen anything except the torn up machine sitting there.

B: Well, those were the days, weren't they, when there was very little electricity at all. There certainly was no electricity at our house, was there, Liz?

W: No, we didn't have any electricity at that time.

B: The business of electrification has taken place within recent years, and it has developed at so fantastic a rate that it's almost inconceivable that just a few years ago people used to sit around the fire. And Poppa did most of his studying around the firelight, didn't he?

W: Yes, he did.

B: What did he have, Liz, about a sixth-grade education?

W: Well, he ... that's about the grade he went to in school, but really he had a college education.

B: I guess because Poppa was always studying. He loved to study practical books like medical journals and law volumes and this sort of thing, that he called practical books. It helped him to help himself and help his people 'round about. Have you any idea how many people Poppa helped in his lifetime to collect ^{old} insurance claims, VA claims, and that sort of thing? Have you got any idea at all how many people he helped, Liz?

W: I don't have any idea but I know that there ^{were} / lots and lots of 'em because very seldom a night passed that somebody

didn't come and ask him to write a letter for them, to help them get a claim or something and he always helped. But a lot of times he even furnished the stamp to mail the letter for them.

B: And didn't charge one penny ~~for them~~, did he?

W: He never charged a penny. He was what you might call a country lawyer.

B: Well, that, that's certainly true. And but what happened to him one time? Do you remember him being hauled into court and fined \$100 for practicing law without a license?

W: Yes, I remember that.

B: I think that was rather stupid or silly or something of somebody to, to charge him with that because he ... what he was doing was acting as a correspondent for these people and they were illiterate and they had no help and ... do you ever remember him charging anything?

W: Never.

B: Sometimes, I do know that once in a while somebody would come along and they'd think to bring ~~or~~ a dozen eggs or maybe even a bag of flour or something like this, but he never charged anything for anything, and after that he was afraid to accept even gifts that people brought.

W: That's right. Because he loved people and he loved to do things for people. And he was always willing to do anything he could to help. There were so many people that didn't have any education and who didn't know how to go about getting things

that they should have had, like some of the First World War veterans that should have been drawing a check for a long time and they didn't know it, and he would help 'em to get it.

B: I know he collected thousands and thousands of dollars for people. I know one claim of \$10,000 that ... that he collected for a man, and the claim was ten or fifteen years old. And I believe this man gave him a sack of flour--

Goose girl flour, if I remember correctly.

W: I had forgotten all about the *Goose girl* flour, but now I remember it. Yes, a lot of people did that, though, but that didn't matter to him. He went right on helping, whether they gave him anything or not--it didn't matter to him,

B: Right. He just wanted to help them. And he was always working at something, wasn't he?

W: Always.

B: Or studying.

W: He always had a lot of books and I think I ^{did,} I got most of my knowledge as a young girl from readin' his books.

B: I'm glad you read his more than mine 'cause the books I ^{read} were more, were inclined to be on the romantic side and that sort of thing, I guess. How did Poppa feel about me reading novels though and things like this--stories?

W: Well, he always encouraged us to read. I don't know what he thought about what you were reading but I know he always encouraged us to read a lot.

- B: Right. He liked for us to read practical, ^{books,} what he called practical books. Of course I liked to read poetry and stories and stuff like that and he was glad I read but he, he wanted me to read things that were beneficial to me, that were very practical. The truth about the matter is there weren't many books in the Prospect Library that weren't practical, were there?
- W: That's right.
- B: You know the old classics, ... we did have the classics in there. We had books, a few books like Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, ... Bronte, I think ^{is her name,} ... Pilgrim's Progress, books like this. Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn; all the books by Mark Twain. ~~And~~ Fortunately all the Mark Twain books were there. And I was so fascinated by this man, and every book he wrote he seemed to use a different style of writing, and I, I loved Mark Twain very much. And other people, of course, the classics. So this gave me a good background for going on and I suppose that's why I now have completed some eighty hours, ^esemester hours, in the field of English alone. It was a breeze for me. People used to say, "Why in the hell ~~did~~ ^{do} you get in a field like English, the hardest subject in the world?" But really it wasn't hard for me because I'd, I'd had all those earlier books and things like this, I guess.
- W: Well, I remember you never had any trouble with your homework.

You always went through it very easy, and it wasn't that easy for me. I had to study to get what I got, but it seemed like you could go through it without even studying.

B: But you know when you and I came ~~along~~^{along} Liz, those were hard days, you know, during the great Depression and so on, and we had it tough. Everybody had it tough. It seemed like we had it tougher than most, right?

W: Yes, I think so.

B: And I was embarrassed because of ... you know, of our condition. But we went ahead and did the best we can, ... could I guess. And I was embarrassed one year because John Hicks, who ^{writes} you know, who drew the cartoon, nationally circulated cartoon, known as As Strange As It Seems. He ~~says~~^{done} something about me when I finished high school. He said, here is a man who ^{never} owned a textbook in his life, and never rented a textbook and yet he completed high school. Well, maybe that explains why ... I say such stupid things in ~~French~~^{Print} sometimes.

W: Well, I always thought you went through things awfully easy. It was not that easy for me, but it seemed that it was always easy for you.

B: I remember one day when I was in school, Liz, you know, I wrote a story. We were given an assignment to write a short story, a short, short story and hand it in. I wrote mine and handed it in and my English teacher immediately accused me of copying a story out of some book or other. And the

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whole class started looking at me and sort of smirking and, you know. And I was on the spot. And so I said, well, I can't prove to you that I didn't write this story but I'll write you another one right here on the spot if that'll prove anything. She said, well, go ahead. And she challenged me to write it. So I sat right ^{there} in class and wrote this story and I said, I was talking to the Lord in my mind; you know, I said, Lord, help me to write a better story than that one was. Let me show her that I wasn't cheating or stealing or anything like that. And so actually I did write a better story than the original story. And from that moment on this teacher was very apologetic, and from that moment on she would do everything in her power to help me in any way she could. And I loved her very much. And she became very much attached to me, but I, I was mortified when she accused me right before the class of copying this story down. And I hadn't done that. I just had a ... I had an imagination, I guess this is the only way you can explain it.

W: Well, I'm glad ^{she found} ~~to find~~ out the truth about it.

B: How 'bout Momma, Sugar babe? Tell us something, ... let's talk about Momma just a little bit. She was the dearest heart in this whole world. And here is Lew Barton, one boy, born in a family of seven surviving children, and I was the only boy and you girls spoiled me rotten.

W: I'm afraid we did.

- B: I'm still do and I love it, I love you girls, and I guess this is why I still like girls, don't you think?
- W: Well, ^{it} could be! Well, Momma was an angel, she really was.
- B: I tell people that I'm hopelessly prejudiced in favor of women.
- W: Well, you should be. You were surrounded with them all your life.
- B: No guys except Poppa and myself and he was always away working at the saw mill or, or if he wasn't working at the saw mill, he was home doing something, or on the farm. He did all sorts of things just to feed ... we hungry kids and so on. But here we were, just the two of us, and here were all those fantastic girls around me, and my mother, and naturally I'm inclined to appreciate girls. I appreciate fellows too, but there's something about women that's special to me. I mean very, very special. And I don't mean that in any derogatory sense. I mean it in the highest sense. Sometimes I think maybe I'll write a book about women and call it All About Women, how about that, Liz?
- W: I think you should.
- B: Maybe I should call it ... The Seven Women in My Life, seven or eight.
- W: Well, that, that sounds like a good title.
- B: Well, I certainly have enjoyed talking with you tonight.
- W: Well, I enjoyed it, too.
- B: I guess we could talk forever about our childhood experiences

couldn't we?

W: Yes, I guess we could, but I don't suppose other people are interested much in , in what happened to us in our childhood.

B: Well, ...

W: It means a lot to us, but maybe not to other people.

B: Yeah. I guess you're right. But I think we're very lucky to have had a mother like my mother, and your mother, and my father and your father.

W: That's right. They were two wonderful people.

B: He was the kindest man I ever knew. And she was the most angelic woman I ever knew. Sometimes she had to ...you know, I had to have a little punishment once in a while.

W: Well, we all did.

B: Oh, me, Liz, we better not get too far afield. I do want to thank you for giving me this interview.

W: I've enjoyed it.

B: There might be a little repetition, you know, here and there, but that can't be helped at this point. And you have contributed some, some very important things. ... Let's talk for just a moment about child-rearing among the Lumbee Indians. You know the name of this program is ~~The~~ The Lifestyle of the Lumbee Indians, and how they lived, ^{and} what they think, what they do. So these little things, ...that's why we can talk about these details, you see, because this is what is revealing

of the Lumbee Indians. And we are a special people, we're different people. I don't ... we're not better than other people. But at least, dadgum it, we're as good, aren't we?

W: Oh, yes. I don't think we're any differant from other people. I think all people are the same.

B: Um, huh.

W: I think Indians are the same as the whites. As far as I can see there's no difference.

B: Uh, huh. Well, that's good to know. Maybe we've been Americanized so completely that we've lost our Indian ways; we've lost many things that we shouldn't have lost perhaps. What do ^gyou think about that?

W: Well, I think we're all l alike. I don't know what we've lost, but I think we're all the same.

B: Um, huh. Well, I certainly have enjoyed this interview, Liz, and I want to wish you the best of everything and near this gl^orious holiday season I want, I want to wish you and yours the merriest Christmas and the happiest New Year ever.

W: The same to you.

B: Good night now, thanks alot.

W: Good night.

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END