

An Interview with
Bill Crawford

at his home in
Columbia, Missouri

27 October 2011

interviewed by Jeff Corrigan



Oral History Program
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PREFACE

Bill Crawford was born in Howard County, Missouri on August 30, 1918, and spent much of his youth in Moberly. He spent every summer on his grandfather's farm, which predestined his love of the rural life. Crawford's interest in environmental conservation began with his attendance to the first meeting of the Conservation Federation of Missouri in 1935. As a young man, he was encouraged by the renowned E. Sydney Stephens of the Missouri Department of Conservation to transfer from Moberly Junior College to the University of Missouri-Columbia. He focused his graduate studies on the pollution of the environment as a result of strip mining, a topic that had not been researched before. Crawford went on to work for the Missouri Department of Conservation for over 30 years and hosted their *Sportsman's Show* on KOMU. In 1949 he became the first chief of wildlife research and served as president of The Wildlife Society. Much of his work revolved around soil fertility and how it relates to the health of the environment. He later co-founded the Missouri Prairie Foundation in 1966. In 2011, the Missouri Department of Conservation recognized Crawford's dedication by giving him the Master Conservationist award. Upon retiring, Crawford's curiosity in his own family's history sparked his interest Columbia's local history and its conservation. He became very involved with the Boone County Historical Society and helped form Columbia's Historic Preservation Commission. He was also very active in Quarry Heights Homeowners' Association. Bill Crawford passed away in December 2017.

The interview was taped on a CompactFlash card, using a Marantz PMD-660 digital recorder and an audio-technica AT825 microphone placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets []. Any use of parentheses () indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks [“”] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [(??)] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Sean Rost.

***Please note that Bill Crawford passed away before this transcript was finished, so he was not able to review it or clarify any points.**

Narrator: Bill Crawford
Interviewer: Jeff Corrigan
Date: October 27, 2011
Transcribed by: Teresa Bergen

5

[Begin Interview.]

[Begin Track 1.]

10

Crawford: Is that, is that good where it is?

Corrigan: Yeah.

15

Crawford: That's wonderful.

Corrigan: I may move it.

20

Crawford: That's wonderful! You know, not worrying about, that must be super.

Corrigan: Video is difficult because you have to worry about keeping people in frame, lighting—

25

Crawford: And lighting. Oh, yeah, yeah.

Corrigan: But in the end result, you just want to make a transcript, so there's no need for a video.

30

Crawford: Of course, I've got a tremendous photographic file. Wow, you can't believe. And I've just kind of saved it. And I pulled that out not long ago and they said, "My God, you look like you're president." Well, I'm not a president, but I've just saved stuff. And it's been going on a long time. And I've lived a long time. That's one thing. I retired at 65 in 1983. So I've had a great, really a very productive life after I retired. Really did. Got involved in a bunch of things. And it's only because I've lived this long, maybe, that the, you know, I mean, interview.

35

Corrigan: Yeah, yeah.

40

Crawford: You know, that's the way it goes.

Corrigan: Okay. Well I'll give this introduction here.

Crawford: Okay. Let's go.

45

Corrigan: So this is Jeff Corrigan, oral historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri. And I'm in the home of Mr. Bill Crawford today in Columbia, Missouri, on Thursday,

October 27, 2011. Mr. Crawford's being interviewed for the first time by me today for the Missouri Environmental Oral History Project. Can you start by telling me when and where you were born?

5 Crawford: I was born on a farm in Howard County. Six miles north of Fayette. Near a little, near a little town called Burton. Burton Township. It was on the MKT branch line between Moberly and New Franklin. So the farm was about two miles from that location. And the house is still there. I visit that place all the time. It's a beautiful home. Nobody's living in it. It's owned by a first cousin of mine. That area was a beautiful family farm area. Our family
10 had, the Magruders and the Crawfords, they were one mile apart, the two families that raised me. There was about 13 families, Magruders, between Fayette and Armstrong, in that area. There is not one person either side of the family that's on the farm now. That farm, it was a family farm setup. And when the new agriculture came in with tractors and so forth, that was not suitable, that piece of country was not suitable to modern agriculture. And these people
15 all sold, caved in, went to city. The kids didn't come home. They came home right after World War II and then found out they couldn't, they started buying tractors and went and started going broke. But when they were in horses, they could make it.

20 Corrigan: They could still make money?

Crawford: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Corrigan: Now you said you were an only child.

25 Crawford: Only child.

Corrigan: Okay. And your father, I read that he was a public school administrator?

30 Crawford: Yes. He was, his first job was a superintendent of schools at Forsythe, Missouri, just down the road from Branson. I lived my first year after I was born, he took my mother in a Model T to drive down to Forsythe, Missouri. And it was interesting about my dad. I really—he was an unusual person. He was a good scientist. He got into science. He got into a, he was a, he took a master's at part time, he almost got his PhD in geography. He was a math teacher. He coached basketball, football and gymnastics at that time. And here was this
35 kid off of the farm there near Burton, at eighteen started teaching country schools. Balteries(??), the little school is still existing. It's not a school now, but the house is still, and there's an association that keeps Baltering(??) going on. I go over there every year for their picnics and their feeds and so forth. I go over there. And I'm the only one left of that period. And my dad was a teacher there. And they don't, nobody's alive now that—but anyway, but
40 Dad was, he really something else. So he left Forsythe, it was county seat in Taney County. Went to Howard County, went to Randolph County, Moberly, and took a job with the high school there. And he became a teacher there. And finally he graduated to become principal. Then—

45 **[End Track 1. Begin Track 2.]**

Crawford: —later on he taught in the Moberly Junior College. And then later on he left that job and became superintendent of schools at Perry, Missouri. And then became county superintendent of schools in Ralls County. And then he went back to the farm. At age seventy-five. Remember, this guy, he taught between eighteen and time he was seventy-five.
5 Then he went back to a farm and farmed and paid for a farm in five years raising soybeans. Now most people at seventy-five don't buy a farm and go back and raise soybeans. But that was my dad. And he was a hunter. He was an intelligent guy. He came to all the Missouri football games. And when he couldn't see well, he'd park out here at Midway and I'd go out there. He said, "When you get on the interstate, if you can't read the signs, you're a dead one.
10 You're dead." So he found out he could drive the back country roads to get down here. And I'd go out to Midway and pick him up. We'd go to ball games together. (laughs)

Corrigan: What was his name?

15 Crawford: W.T. Crawford. They called him Tom. William Thomas Crawford. And my name is Bill Thomas. But I'm Bill. I'm not William.

Corrigan: Okay. And what was your mother's name?

20 Crawford: Ruth Ann Magruder. Magruder. And she was, she was married, her married name was Crawford.

Corrigan: How do you spell Magruder?

25 Crawford: M-a-g-r-u-d-e-r. Both sides of my family are pure Scotch. They came out of Scotland and stayed a few, fifty or a hundred years, I guess, in Ireland. I guess you would call them now Scotch-Irish. But basically we see it. Then they came, they came to Chesapeake Bay in the late '70s, 19, 18, 1770s. (laughs) Came up Chesapeake Bay. Stayed a while in, both families, stayed a while in Pennsylvania. And then most of the people in Pennsylvania
30 found out they couldn't make a living there and they went to the valley of Virginia. So they went to Virginia. And both families established relationships with them. Lived there. Then as time moved on, the families parted and moved on to Kentucky. And in 1840s, they came to Missouri. Both, both families did. So all the way from, all the way from Maryland and Pennsylvania, there's graves all the way. So my genealogy is really fun. My wife was a
35 tremendous genealogist. And we visited every gravestone from here to there. So it's been fun.

Corrigan: Now you grew up on a farm.

40 Crawford: Let me explain that.

Corrigan: Okay.

45 Crawford: I was really a city boy. But in the summertime, my folks, my dad, was an eternal educator. He always went to school in the summertime. He went to George Peabody College, he went to Boulder College, he went to colleges everywhere. And in the summer, as soon as

5 school was out in Moberly, he'd dump me on the farm. And he and Mother would go off to school. So for about ten or twelve years, every summer, for three months, I was on the farm. And boy, was I welcome. I had a grandfather who didn't have a wife anymore. He had a bachelor son. He had two bachelor daughters. And they were running this big farm. If they needed help, they really needed help. And when they saw me arrive, I was the go-fer. They had a job for me every minute of the day. So for about ten years, I spent all my time for ten, so that's the farm part of it, see.

10 Corrigan: So what kind of farm was it?

Crawford: It was a big farm. It was—

Corrigan: Livestock and—

15 Crawford: It was everything. Everything. You were raising grain, you were raising livestock, sheep, hogs, chickens, eggs. Every year, every week the egg man came by and bought eggs. And if you needed ice, why you'd buy ice, a truck would come by and you'd buy 20 pounds of ice and put a sack over it and keep it all week, you know. (laughs) When you asked for 20 iced tea, my grandpa used to say, "Well, we're just about out, Bill. I don't think we can have iced tea today." (laughs) So that's what I grew up in. So I really, it really predestined my life, because I had a tremendous appreciation of rural life. I did everything on the farm. I plowed corn. I did it all, so.

25 Corrigan: Okay. Now what kind of activities? You said your dad was an outdoorsman—

[End Track 2. Begin Track 3.]

30 Corrigan: What kind of activities when you were younger did you and your parents do? If you had a free weekend or you had something, what did you do?

35 Crawford: Well, lots of time we would go back to the farm. See, his mother and dad were still on the farm. And my grandpa and grandma were still on the farm. And my grandma Perot Bride(??). But my folks liked to go back to the farm. So when we were down there, we would hunt and fish. In those summertimes, hell, we'd jump, I learned to drive a Model T when I was thirteen. Now, that's the reason I bought one later. But we'd jump in that Model T and go over to a creek or a small river, the Chariton River, north of Glasgow. We'd go over there and fish in the river there. But fishing, hunting. We spent a lot of time, Saturdays was the big day of the week. Everybody left the farm and went to town. And you'd go down there. And I'd wander around the streets and buy sacks of popcorn for a nickel and that kind of stuff.

40 Corrigan: And which town is this? Is this—

Crawford: Fayette.

45

Corrigan: Fayette. Okay.

Crawford: Fayette. One of the great things in my life when I was a kid is I got to sit on the steps the day that Harry Truman showed up in Fayette. He was running for senator. And I was sitting on three steps down right below Harry Truman. He got up there on the steps and said, “Folks, I think you all need a change in this area. And I’m willing to give you that change.” (laughs) And later on, let me tell you, I’ll tie this to Harry Truman again. When Harry Truman won the election from Dewey, you remember that big deal. He was on a train, he was in Kansas City, he stayed in the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, he jumped on a special train back to Washington, DC. The Missouri Pacific out of Kansas City to Saint Louis. And I was working in Jeff City. What would have been the date of that? It was when he took over from presidency.

Corrigan: It would have been—

15 Crawford: ’51, maybe? ’50? ’49?

Corrigan: Yeah. You’re getting there.

Crawford: I’m getting, the dates lost me. But I was up in the conservation department’s offices. And somebody went through the hall and they said, “The train that Harry Truman was on is stopping at the Jefferson City station.” Man, I ran out of there like crazy, went down the hill there and stood right back of that observation car, that big brass car that he had. And here came Harry and his daughter and his wife and a bunch of other people and he made a short talk there. I was in the first row watching Harry Truman make that, talking about the Dewey battle and how—so that kind of, I always thought it was kind of neat that I heard him make a talk to become senator. And I also heard him make a talk when he was becoming president.

Corrigan: Yeah.

30

Crawford: How about that! (laughs)

Corrigan: Because you were a boy, yeah, yeah.

35 Crawford: Yeah. Isn't that keen?

Corrigan: Yeah, I forgot to ask you, what’s your actual birth date?

Crawford: August the 30th, 1918. I was a World War One baby.

40

Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: My dad had just been called up, but he never had to, he never had to go.

45 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: He said, “Bill,” he said, “I got a little stay because you were on the way. And by the time you got here, the war was over.” (laughs)

5 Corrigan: Now you said you hunted and fished back then with your dad. How was the hunting and fishing back then?

10 Crawford: It was, well, it was fantastic. We didn’t have deer and turkey. There was no deer and turkey. But the landscape was perfect for small game. We could go, on Thanksgiving all my first cousins, we’d pull out the shot, all of our shotguns and rifles sat out in the hallway of the Magruder house. We’d all just go out there and pick up a shotgun. We’d go have a rabbit hunt every Thanksgiving. About 20 or 30 of us. We’d kill 100 rabbits.

Corrigan: Okay.

15 Crawford: In an afternoon. No problem at all. We’d work these old cornfields. And the landscape and the kind of farming that was done in those days was conducive to small game. Quail, rabbits, and anything like that. But we were out of deer a long time ago. We were out of wild turkeys. And later on, that—

20 **[End Track 3. Begin Track 4.]**

Crawford: —came on later.

25 Corrigan: Yes. So now you grew up in Moberly.

Crawford: I grew up in Moberly.

Corrigan: And is that where you went to grade school?

30 Crawford: I went through every grade in Moberly. I’d like to talk for just a little bit about Moberly.

Corrigan: Yeah.

35 Crawford: Moberly that was an unusual town. It was the heart of the Wabash Railroad for Missouri. Between Kansas City and Saint Louis, Moberly was, the roundhouses, they built locomotives. There was eighteen-hundred people, union people, in Moberly that worked for the railroad. And when you went to school, you’d look, everybody around you, family worked for the railroad. But it was a kind of a rich town. I remember when Moberly was
40 larger than Columbia. Yeah. You know, Columbia was slow getting there. We were not a very large town for a long time. So anyway, but Moberly was called the Magic City. Because when the railroad showed up between Saint Louis and Kansas City, all of a sudden they designated Moberly as the place that the road would also go to Des Moines, Iowa. So they made that the heart of the Wabash system in Missouri. And so that town, it just grew
45 overnight. And this was in the ‘50s, 1850s. And they called it the Magic Town, because it came overt all of a sudden. And the Wabash Railroad was a secret there. But later on, it was a

good town to grow up in. Educational facilities were good. They had a lot of money. The depressions and so forth didn't hit that town very much because they had a constant payroll by the Wabash Railroad. And that, when you get eighteen-hundred people in town, that's pretty good stuff. So that's where I grew up. And the thing that really was neat, was that

5 Moberly Junior College at that time, Missouri had junior colleges. They didn't have community colleges. And junior colleges were more of get ready to go to the big school. You know, in my class, I had a class of probably 75 or 80 people in the two years I was in junior college. Every one of those was going to, doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs, they were headed for the university. And almost all of them came down here. And when I decided to come to

10 University of Missouri, that's a story of its own—

Corrigan: Yeah. We'll get there.

Crawford: We'll get there. But Moberly was a great school, was a good school town. And

15 the interesting thing about junior colleges, and people have forgotten, they were, they were not, they did not get state support. They were run out of the local school district. In other words, the Moberly School District ran the junior college. There was no tuition. You went like, just like you were going to the eighth grade or a freshman in high school, you'd go to junior college automatically. No tuition. So I went to that setup. And I had a couple of

20 mentors in that institution that were just super. I had a gal, her name was Esther Adams. She was a tremendous botanist, zoologist. She had taken degrees in Indiana. Later she graduated from down here at the university. And later on, after she left the junior college setup, she became the chief scientist for the Lilly Pharmaceutical Company in Indianapolis. My school teacher. She became the chief scientist for Lilly. Isn't that something?

25

Corrigan: Yeah.

Crawford: That's the kind of people that junior college had. Almost everybody had a PhD. In those days, you didn't find schools with PhDs. That little junior college at Moberly had

30 almost had all PhDs. Which was really something.

Corrigan: And about how big was the junior college, I mean, people-wise?

Crawford: And it was a different system. When you went to school in Moberly, you went to

35 a grade school. Seven grades. And you had eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh, twelve. And that would put you through the sophomore in high school. Then you went to the junior college and the last two years of high school were in the same building. So when you took a junior and senior in high school there, you were in the same building as the junior college.

40 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: That's the way it was then. And now it's all different. But now they're getting lots of state money. But in those days, we had—

45 **[End Track 4. Begin Track 5.]**

Crawford: —a hell of a, pardon me, we had an awful good school. And it got no state support, but it was run by the local school district. Isn't that different?

5 Corrigan: Yeah.

Crawford: And so but now, when the athletic programs at Missouri, they go to these junior colleges in Kansas and Texas and so forth, get junior college players. Not community college players. But so, anyway, it was really different.

10 Corrigan: So you graduated Moberly High School when?

Crawford: Well, '38, '37, I graduated '36, 1936, as a freshman—as a senior in high school. And then two years of junior college, '37—

15 Corrigan: Right to junior college.

Crawford: '37 and '38, uh-huh.

20 Corrigan: Now we talked briefly about, I was going to ask you about some of the activities you did outside as a kid. You talked about that living on the farm. When you got a little older, teenager, because you said ten years out on the farm in the summers.

Crawford: Pretty much.

25 Corrigan: So you were—

Crawford: Let's see. Between the ages of—I went down there when I was probably four or five years old.

30 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: And then I quit that when I was about, oh, when I was twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen.

35 Corrigan: Yeah, okay, about ten years, okay. And then what did you, what did you do in your summers then? Were you working at all in Moberly when you were in high school? In the summer or anything?

Crawford: No, no. You mean after I was on the farm?

40

Corrigan: Yeah. I mean, did you have a paper route or anything?

Crawford: No. I didn't hold a regular job. But I sure got involved in a lot of things.

45 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: I became a songbird. I was a pretty good singer in the—(laughs)

Corrigan: Is this in the school choir?

5 Crawford: Yeah, I got started in the school. Also played a trombone in the—(laughs)

Corrigan: Okay.

10 Crawford: Yeah, I played a trombone in a local band. And in those days, schools didn't have a school orchestras and school bands. We had a private instructor there in Moberly. He was a farmer trumpet player with Lou Souza band. Played in circuses a lot. And when he retired, he came back to Moberly and he established a music studio. He taught every instrument. So all my guys that I knew that was interested in music, so that's where I got my trombone lessons. And later on, when I went to the high school, I got in the high school band because he was
15 the director of the high school band. And when I went to the college, they had a band and he was still the band director for the college. See, one-man show. And he was doing that for the whole school system. But out of that, out of his tutelage, my closest friend, Harry Harrison, his dad was an engineer there in Moberly, he became a super, super oboe player and ended up as an oboe player for the Washington Symphony. Thirteen years in Washington, DC as
20 their top oboe player. And later on he ended up at Louisiana State University in charge of an oboe program. And last I talked to him, he was getting ready to take a bunch of students to France so they could buy oboes. So that was my closest friend that I grew up with. We were all singers, though. And we had a high school and a junior college quartet. We traveled around the landscape, singing on request by representing the college and representing the
25 high school, so I got involved in singing. Then I came to the university later on and got involved in it. That's another story. But while we were in Moberly, we were doing enough things that we sang several times on KFRU back in those days.

Corrigan: Okay.

30

Crawford: Came down here and did it live. They found out about us. And about every three or four months we'd get a call, "You guys want to go on the show again? We need some, we need to fill some time down here." (laughs) And we'd come down to KFRU. Isn't that something?

35

Corrigan: And did you and your friends spend a lot of time outdoors? Or was it mostly school activities like singing and music?

40

Crawford: Yeah. Out of doors, I was a scout for a while. But I got involved in athletics. I was not a good football, basketball player. But I played them and lettered at the college. I lettered in football, basketball both. Busted my knee. And played under the lights at Chillicothe. Used to have a great big business college up there. And it was the first lighted football stadium—

45

[End Track 5. Begin Track 6.]

Crawford: —I ever saw. And the first time I played up there, I got clipped by a guy. I was a defensive end. I got my knee torn up. And it's just like it was when I got it torn up. I never did get it fixed. (laughs)

5 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: They gave me a hot water bottle when they fixed it. (laughs) I've got a scar on my leg where the hot water bottle burned me from that deal. (laughs)

10 Corrigan: You won't forget that.

Crawford: I won't forget that.

15 Corrigan: Right. I forgot to ask you about, did your mom ever work out of the home?

Crawford: No, she was, she lived just three blocks from the church. She was very, very active in the First Baptist Church there. And I used to sing in the choir there and solo. And played, they had a band. Used to have an orchestra for the church. I played in that. My mother, she was very active in the community. Belonged to the Tuesday Club, which was the women's club of all sorts. She was just a very active lady in a lot of good causes. But she never worked, never worked out of the house.

20 Corrigan: So she didn't need to work to support the family. Your father was able to provide enough.

25 Crawford: Yeah, yeah. Let me tell you about the good old days in teaching. Dad was principal at the time that the Depression really hit. See, this was, I came up in that Depression period, the '30s, that was terrible. One day he came home and he said, "Mom," he said, "you know, this is, boy, we've had some bad news today." He said, "The school board today met with the county collector. And the county collector says there's not enough taxes to pay the portion that goes to the school." And he said, "The board has met and said they're going to have to, they might have to cut the salaries." And he said, "My salary, which is now \$200 a month is going to be \$100 a month." For about three, four years, he worked as principal of the high school for \$100 a month in the Depression days. If you did that now, I think you'd have a revolution. (laughs) But that's the way it was.

30 Corrigan: Okay. But you said overall, though, Moberly wasn't hit as bad as other areas with the Depression.

40 Crawford: It was really bad. But they did have a steady payroll with the railroad. Now a lot of other things fell apart terribly, terribly. I remember when the, you remember the WPA days?

45 Corrigan: Yeah, yeah.

Crawford: It was interesting in Moberly. We had, Moberly had solid brick streets. Everything was a brick street. See, there was a big brick plant on the side of town that furnished the brick for the highways of Missouri. The highways used to be brick, before concrete. The day the state highway department went from brick to concrete, that brick plant closed. Because they were one of the principal sources of paving brick in Missouri. Well, anyway—so Moberly got their paving brick from that brick plant, so every little dinky street in Moberly was paved with bricks. But during, but over time, we had—Moberly was also the heart of the Ringling Brother, Ringling Brother Circus. Outdoor circus. For North Missouri. One of the—Wabash would, between Kansas City and Saint Louis, it was the principal show each year. So they'd land there, and it was all no tractors, no anything. It was all done by horses. So they'd roll in these great, big long trains and unload everything with horses. And then they'd pull all these great big heavy wagons for the circus over these brick streets. Well as they'd go down one of these streets and you'd see their tracks left in the street. So they were always repairing streets in Moberly because of the damn circus—pardon me, the circus was tearing up their streets there. But anyway, what happened during the Depression, Moberly decided they would get a WPA grant. So they redid all the brick streets in Moberly. They would lift all the bricks up and fill up all of these tracks and turn the brick over and you'd have a new street. So Moberly during the Depression days got this road system – new – by turning over the bricks. (laughs) So that was what you'd call make work. But it did, it did improve the streets. So that was a make work program. Not quite like what's going on these days.

Corrigan: Yeah, yeah.

25 Crawford: (laughs) Enough said? Okay.

Corrigan: So now, so you're at Moberly Junior College, and you ended up transferring to University of Missouri.

30 Crawford: Yeah. And that's a story. I had a story there. That story was, Mrs. Adams, our teacher, was inviting professors and people from the university to—

[End Track 6. Begin Track 7.]

35 Crawford: —come up and talk to a club. It was called the Bozool Club. Botany, zoology. Bozool, Bozool Club. And guess who one of those people were? This was in about 1936, '37, '36. She called down and she'd been, she knew all the people down here. She called in. She said, "I heard they have a new conservation program at the University of Missouri. And Dr. Rudolf Bennitt is the head of that program." And she said, "Could I speak to Dr. Bennett?" And she talked to him. And she said, "I'd like to, I would like to have you up for a speech to our club." And he said, "I'd be glad to do that." He said, "I'd like to bring along E. Sydney Stephens." So Mr. Stephens was at the point now, see in 1935 in that area, he was starting to develop the Missouri Conservation Federation which was eventually going to put the petition out for creating the Missouri Conservation Department. So they came up and made the talk at the college there. I got introduced to Dr. Bennett. And he said, "Mr. Crawford, Bill, what are you getting ready to do when you leave here?" I said, "Oh, I think maybe I'll go to Purdue.

They've got a good forestry program." And he said, "Well, you don't want to do that." He said, "You ought to come down to Missouri. We've got a great new program." And he said, "Mr. Stephens helped us to get that program started." And Mr. Stephens says, "Yes, sir, you wouldn't, a good Missourian wouldn't think about going to Indiana to go to school when
5 you're just 30 miles down the road. Come on, now." But my dad came to that meeting that day. He was always interested in lots of things. He came, and for supper that night, he invited those two guys to my house, to our house. And we had a nice supper. And it was at that meeting, Rudolf says, "Well, why don't you come down and visit us down at Columbia?" And I enrolled and Mr. Stephens said, "And you're going to get a good conservation
10 background when you do that." So those two guys got me down here at the university.

Corrigan: Now—

15 Crawford: Oh, one more thing.

Corrigan: Go ahead.

Crawford: How I, why I'm an old time Mizzou fan. When I was in high school, the university had what they called a knothole gang. They had a knothole gang out here at Faurot field. Any high school kid could come in from anywhere and go in for 50 cents. So we would go out on the highway, Highway 63 at Moberly, and hitchhike down here game day. Come down here and pay our 50 cents, go in and watch the Mizzou game. That was in 1934 and '35. (laughs) So I grew up a Mizzou fan. And my dad was a track coach. And he always attended all the track coaches down here. And he had his stopwatch. I've got his stopwatch.
20 He would track down every race and so forth, and write it down on a paper, take it home and tell it to his students and all this kind of stuff. So we developed a very close relationship. In fact, Dad went to school down here a couple of summers. He also went to Central Methodist, Central—Warrensburg, he went to Kirksville, got degrees at Kirksville. Got degrees out of George Peabody College in Nashville. Got another degree in Boulder, Colorado. He had
30 degrees from everywhere. He was the ultimate educator. He was. And they just loved him. The day he died, his funeral over at Fayette, there were hundreds of people that showed up. The common word was, "I don't know what I would have done with my life if it hadn't have been for Mr. Crawford." So he left a real heritage with a lot of people. Real teacher. Real teacher.

35 Corrigan: That's great. Now you ended up graduating in fisheries, though, correct? But that's not what you actually started in.

Crawford: No. That's kind of a story. You remember in the '30s, one of the big problems on the landscape was strip mining. This country grew up with shaft mines. Big, deep shafts that you'd go down a thousand feet and you'd get the coal out from shaft mines. In fact, I had an uncle who was in that business at Moberly. He built the shafts and elevators and he'd go down. But that all shifted to strip mining, where they had these tremendous—

45 **[End Track 7. Begin Track 8.]**

Crawford: —shovels and so forth. And they would expose the coal veins and dig them out. And that became really a thing in central Missouri. All this stuff around north of Columbia, all that. And Fulton area, Moberly area, clear up to Macon and that country, just one great big strip mine area. But the problem with all that was the pollution that developed from that. Iron pyrite, which made, along with sulfur, was in those coal veins. And when you expose it to air, that made sulfuric acid. And so when sulfuric acid was made on these big strip mine pits, this would wash down in the creeks and kill everything. So creek after creek, Cedar Creek, it was a, didn't have a, it was a complete desert. Nothing lived in Cedar Creek in those days. So the problem came back to the university. Well, we don't know anything about this stuff. Why don't, why don't we study this? So the department—I was ready for graduate school. So I also had something else going in graduate school. I had explored oceanography. (laughs) That sounds crazy. But this was kind of during the war period. And I'd been to Jefferson Barracks four times with this leg, but they didn't want me. So I looked at the listings. University of Maryland had an oceanography program. So I wrote in and gave all my stuff to them and so forth. And they asked me to come up for an interview. University of Maryland. I got out there and they did, they offered me something. Boy, it was pretty rich, pretty good. Full time, it was a PhD program. Well I said, "I want to ask you a question: Where am I going to spend my life? On a boat the rest of my life?" Well they said, "You'll be on a boat 70 percent of your time the rest of your life." I said, "Thank you." So I said, "I don't want to do that kind of stuff." I didn't want to be on the ocean. I wasn't an ocean guy to start with. But it sounded great. Adventurous and all that good stuff. So I came back and entered the school here. Well in the meantime, the fisheries people in Jeff City and at university said we'll put a guy on strip mine pollution. And what I did, I took a bunch of strip mined lakes, various degrees of PH, of acidity, and studied the limnology, the chemical characteristics of the water. All the various kinds of life that was in these various lakes. And it was new. It was a brand new area. There wasn't any literature on that kind of stuff. So I got into that for a couple of years and came out with stuff and it was in the fisheries department. But I'd been taking all the wildlife stuff, too. Ornithology and mammalogy. I took a whole bunch of premed stuff and all kinds of stuff. But I came out, so the department, when I first came on board, they listed me as aquatic biologist. Well I had never, ever hoped to be an aquatic biologist. I was on the game side. So when I finally came on board with the department and I was stationed at Fredericktown, down near Cape Girardeau, little town of 3500, and I was there a couple of years. But they assigned me 17 counties as the biologist. And you know, in those days, this was in 1941 and '42, we didn't know much about our resource. The conservation department was formed in 1937. We got practically a blank sheet when that organization, scientifically. We didn't know, we knew roughly some things. But we didn't know any details about anything. So the conservation movement was just coming on board when the conservation department got formed. So I was one of those early guys, not necessarily the first, but about the seventh or eighth guy that came on board that had a scientific attitude toward natural resources and wildlife conservation and so forth and so on. So that's where I fit into that deal. So I came, I did my work—

[End Track 8. Begin Track 9.]

Crawford: —on the strip mine situation. And I think they got some pretty good information out of it and were able to use it. But my life was with wildlife and birds and animals and so forth.

5 Corrigan: Okay. Now before we get into what kind of the work you did, I just have a general question about, could you talk a little bit about your time at the university?

Crawford: Oh, yeah, that was fun. Oh my god, it was that fun! (laughs) I lived in a house on
10 12 Allen Place. 12 Allen Place was a little street right south of the Ellis Library. That whole
area was houses. I lived in a lady's house. You see, there wasn't any, there basically was no
housing for students. I think there was a, there was some private stuff for, some of the
15 churches had things. There was some co-ops and so forth and so on. I think maybe there was
one dorm for ladies on the university campus. But no men at that time. So the town was full
of these great big old houses sitting around. And it was during the Depression days. These
20 farmers, they had kids, they wanted them to go to school. But the dad died or probably, and
they'd sell the farm, and the old lady, the mama, would come to town, buy one of these big
old white houses and set up rooms. The town was full of these! I lived in one of those. Eight
boys. And the name was Brhn, B-r, B-r-h-n. In fact, the son of this lady was the best man at
my wedding. But eight of us. And it was a nice neat mix. I had an engineer from New York. I
25 had people from, my roommate was Mill Schanuel, who was an editorial writer. He was a
ghost writer for, who was the head of the historical society for many, many, many years?
Wrote books and books and books and books. Before—

Corrigan: There was Shoemaker—

25

Crawford: Shoemaker.

Corrigan: Okay.

30 Crawford: He was a ghost writer. My roommate was a ghost writer for Shoemaker. And he
would spend weekends and weekends and weekends at his typewriter. Doing stuff. And he'd
write this stuff up and hand it to Shoemaker, and he'd publish the dang stuff. He published
all kinds of books, you know. Shoemaker books everywhere. But he later on ended up—

35 Corrigan: His name was, you said Mill—

Crawford: Schanuel. S-c-h-a-n-u-e-l. He turned out later to be an editorial writer for the *Post
Dispatch*.

40 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: My roommate did. And he and three other guys that were in that house ended up
in my wedding in Decatur, Illinois

45 Corrigan: Oh, you were married in Decatur?

Crawford: Uh-huh.

Corrigan: Okay.

5 Crawford: Yeah. (laughs)

Corrigan: I was going to ask that kind of question later, but I'll write that down now. Okay.

Crawford: Yeah, okay. (laughs) So—

10

Corrigan: So you lived in this house and—

Crawford: I lived in that house. I lived there mostly when I was an undergraduate. I lived there two, three years. And then when I got to be a graduate student, there was a lady who had a house near—university has those buildings across from the Peace Park. There's a bunch of buildings in there. These two ladies were schoolteachers in town. They had a nice house and they had a finished out basement. And for a room, you would have, I had a nice basement room for ten dollars a month. They changed the sheets, and every Sunday morning they'd have us up for breakfast. (laughs) That was the way it went. And they thought the world of us guys. That was the way it was. Two bachelor gals teaching school, but they had this house full of boys. So that was where I moved from. So that's where I finished out school. But that situation with the town was really interesting. And then about the same time, the gal that I married, she had been a student. Midge Crawford, Midge Sandburg was her name. Martha Louise Sandburg. She was a year behind me. She had come from Decatur, Illinois when her father became head of the Wabash at Moberly. See, Decatur was also a center for the Wabash Railroad between Chicago and Saint Louis. So he got—

25

[End Track 9. Begin Track 10.]

30 Crawford: —promoted from the head guy at Decatur over to Moberly and brought these two girls along with him. And these two girls got in school. One girl was in my class and one girl was a year behind me. And the year behind me was the gal I went with. So she, when I came to university, she was still out there at Moberly, but when I came to second year, she came down. And she lived in one of these big old white houses with a house full of girls. Across the street from the parking garage, no, where the parking garage is, west of the education building there on Conley. There used to be a whole series of big white two story, big houses. That's one of the sad things historically about Columbia. It was nice we had the university. But university was located right in the middle of town. When it grew, it just ate up blocks and blocks and blocks and blocks of beautiful homes. So Columbia lost a lot of its heritage. 40 Not anybody's fault, but just that's the way it was. Lost a lot of its housing heritage and beautiful old buildings and so forth when the university grew. You know when I came to university, it was just, I think it was four or five thousand people here. And right after the war it jumped to ten and so forth. And here we are now, thirty. So it just keeps growing. But anyway, so, but that's where she was. And she came down here and took botanical sciences. 45 Was going to be, I don't know where that was going to end up, very talented gal. Also liked artwork. Was kind of going into medicine some way or another. And after she graduated,

then she didn't go into graduate work. She went back to Decatur and became an illustrator for a newspaper in Decatur. And she sat around and waited two years till I graduated. I said I wasn't going to marry until I had a job. So I graduated two years later, went back to Decatur and had the wedding back there. So that's the way it goes.

5

Corrigan: You graduated, I believe, in April of 1941?

Crawford: '42.

10

Corrigan: '42.

Crawford: '42.

15

Corrigan: Okay. Now after you had graduated from the university, you were working on grad school, too. But eventually you became, you came onto the department.

20

Crawford: I came onto the department. That was an interesting story. When I graduated, I was talking about, Rudolf Bennitt, the guy who had made the talk, was my advisor. He became my advisor. And he, when I was getting ready to finish up my—I've got to show you something. I was looking into telling you. Here's my thesis. This, you will never believe this. Rudolf Bennitt, when he was reading my manuscript, he said, "Who's getting ready to type this stuff for you?" I said, "Well, I don't have a typist." He said, "You've got any money?" I said, "No, I don't have any money." He said, "I'll type it for you." Rudolf Bennitt, my advisor, typed my thesis for me. So every time I look at these onion skin pages, he would make five and six copy onion skin, he would type and edit at the same time. So here he was with the manuscript that I had. He was typing it but was also correcting it and doing all the editing, he was editing at the same time he was typing.

25

Corrigan: So he typed it for you. That's great.

30

Crawford: I talked to some of my university friends. I said, "When did you recently type a graduate's thesis for you?" He said, "Boy, we don't do that kind of stuff anymore." And Rudolf Bennitt lived right up the street here. On the other side of, what the hell is the name of the street? (laughs)

35

Corrigan: Just a couple blocks from here?

40

Crawford: Yeah. Just a couple. The house is still up there. I used to spend a lot of time—in fact, he typed it in his house, not in his office. So I'd go, and you know what was interesting? His wife, they were New Englanders. He had been chief scientist for the Wood's Hole oceanic laboratory there. And they brought him out here for this conservation program. But she was a, boy, she was a New Englander. She was never happy out here. (laughs) Anyway, so. But he got onto the Cardinals. That's a good subject to talk about today, you know, tonight—

45

[End Track 10. Begin Track 11.]

5 Crawford: (laughs) I think about Rudolf. In the summertime, when he wasn't at the university very much, he spent a lot of time at home. His wife wouldn't let him listen to the ball games on the radio. She just hated them. So he had a garage out there, back of his house, and the garage is still there. And he set up an office out in his garage. And if I wanted to find Rudolf in the summertime, I knew where to find him. I didn't have to go to the house. I'd just go up his driveway and go back to the garage. And he'd be back there listening to Cardinal ball games. (laughs) He'd be out there today, man! Wouldn't that be great? But anyway Rudolf was, he loved baseball. He just loved the Cardinals. (laughs)

10 Corrigan: So I wanted to ask you, you had already talked a little bit about you were hired as an aquatic biologist but that's not what, you were a fish and game man.

15 Crawford: Yeah.

15 Corrigan: But I read something I thought was interesting and I wanted to ask you about it. Your early work dealt with soil fertility.

20 Crawford: Okay. That's another story. That's a story all its own. Okay. When I went to Fredericktown, we had a guy on board named Hugh Denney was the name. Hugh Denney had come out of the ag school and he had been associated with William Albrecht. William Albrecht was head of the soils department. He was kind of a Russian European type. And they had kind of started a program of looking at the landscape based on soil types trying to delineate geographically various types of habitats. But doing it by soil types. Well, when I went down to Fredericktown, one of the first things they did, they assigned about ten
25 different areas to me. They were about, let's see, they were about six or seven square miles each. And you'd completely census the vegetation, the animals, and so forth and so on. Then you would take that data and expand it to the total acreage of that particular soil type. That was the way it worked. And so when I first went to work for the department, I got involved
30 in that. Well, after about two years at Fredericktown, the department decided to consolidate their new biology staff. They had been scattered everywhere, and it wasn't working. And so we came to the university. And at that time, university was in, they had the new building over at Stephens Hall there on University Avenue, University and College. But there wasn't anybody in it. There was a small building there called Stephens Hall. And that building was a
35 WPA building built by E. Sydney Stephens. This is so complicated. I don't want to screw people up. But E. Sydney Stephens, he was a printer here in town. Came from a very famous family. And Stephens, his daddy and his granddad were the ones who started Stephens College, see. Well Sydney, he was political. He went to Harvard, he went to Harvard with FDR. He went to, and guess where Rudolf Bennitt came from? He was a Harvard man.
40 (laughs) So out of all that, between Sydney Stephens and Rudolf Bennitt and the WPA program, which is what Roosevelt started, they cooked up a project to build Stephens Hall. It was the first conservation building devoted to conservation in the United States, that building. So anyway, when they moved us to town, that building was not fully occupied. So we had about five rooms there. So we had a bunch of guys that were working on all this data.
45 Then Hugh Denney left. There was a guy named Morris Baker, and he left. And I inherited all this data. And in the meantime, I became close friends of William Albrecht, who was the

soil specialist on the campus. He and I became close friends. And he just lives, he had a beautiful home over here on Killey(??). So anyway, I became close friends of his. I began to write a bunch of stuff. And I wrote a lot of articles in the professional journals and so forth and so on. And everybody else had disappeared. So I had, as a result of some earlier work
5 and my work, and what—

[End Track 11. Begin Track 12.]

Crawford: —this was all about was that every animal and plant develops according to its soil
10 resources. If it's good soil, it does this, if it's bad soil, it does this, and so forth. And we found out that wildlife populations responded to this thing just like domestic stock. Just like domestic stock. Well William Albrecht had done all the stuff on domestic animals. But he didn't have any data on wildlife. So we had the data on wildlife. So we became close collaborators. And that's the story of how all that started. So over time, hell, with this
15 Albrecht, he was famous internationally. He was speaking everywhere, all over the country. Outside of the country. And half of his talk, and more than half of his talk, became wildlife material that we had collected. But he had all the stuff on domestic animals. So that's how that started. And then when we wrapped up that whole project, I was the only one left out of that bunch. So I became the last guy to handle all that stuff. So that program set up a program
20 for the department that we recognized that when you're doing something with wildlife habitat, the first thing you had to do was consider the resource that everything was sitting on was the soil. It determined growth, it determined all kinds of stuff. And the same with forest resources. So that's when I got involved in this. And I took, I was involved in a lot of national conferences with speeches and so forth. I went to New York City and Washington
25 and so forth, gave a bunch of talks and so forth. And I was the only one that was talking about this. And everybody began to take notice. It's a hard thing to apply. What are you going to do about it after you know all this? But you have to recognize that it's a controlling factor. When you're trying to do something for habitat, for wildlife or whatever, you've got to consider that the soil base to start with, what kind of resource is all this stuff sitting on? So
30 that was the reason that program got a start. Now we've got a guy in Texas and this is a recent development. He's a worldwide expert. And he's just now discovered this stuff that Missouri did. (laughs) He came up here from Austin, Texas not long ago. And he brought all this stuff and he'd written this great big volume of stuff. But he was not aware, and it was worldwide information on animals and plants based on everything except soil. And he didn't
35 have any wildlife data. It was all domestic animals. And he had just located, he had just run into all this stuff. See, when he got into the research papers, he wasn't looking under wildlife. He was looking under domestic stock. So he didn't know we existed. He had just about two years ago found out about me. He called me on the phone one night. He said, "Mr. Crawford, am I talking to *the* Bill Crawford, or is this his son?" "Oh," I said, "I'm *the* Bill Crawford."
40 (laughs) He said, "I can't believe it!" He said, "Somebody told me you'd passed away 25 years ago." I said, "Well, that's nice, I'm still around." (laughs) But anyway, within two months, he was here, sitting right here. And I have this great big paper. And now he went home, this paper was about to be published, it's published by the Ecological Society of the United States. Worldwide deal. Big, fat thing. And he's changing the thinking about a lot of
45 these ecologists regarding this subject. And when he got up here and got to digging in our files, and stuff that, I had a tremendous amount of stuff that wasn't listed on the national

references, he got all this stuff and took it home and rewrote this whole thing and sent it back to me. He said, “Well, it’s going to the publisher. What do you think?” So all this stuff now has enormous number of references to our work. So I’ve become *the* Mr. Crawford in this process. (laughs)

5

[End Track 12. Begin Track 13.]

Crawford: But anyway, he sent me this stuff and I wrote him back that I’d received it. I said, “You really don’t know the real story about the way all this started.” About the relationship with William Albrecht and us. He said, “I’d be glad to get it.” So I haven’t sat down and written this stuff out yet. But he’s down there waiting for it. But that’s kind of the story. And the department has long since adapted that premise that good wildlife management is dependent on good nutrition, good soils, good this, good that. The problem with all that stuff is usually where you get good soils and good nutrition is highly farmed and there’s no place for wildlife. See, so that’s one of the problems. Because when you get this good stuff, sometimes they farm it off the landscape. Then where there’s no place for wildlife left in a thousand-acre row crop cornfield. Because six months of the year is nothing there. And the other six months is growing corn. As a result, there’s no, basically no wildlife that we would be interested in. Of course there’s always insects and flowers and this and the other sort of thing. So that’s where we are with that program. I don’t know how to condense it much better than that. That’s kind of where it is.

10

15

20

Corrigan: Okay.

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Crawford: But it’s interesting. After 40, 60, 70 years, somebody found this stuff. And now is incorporating it. And you cannot believe—see, in those days, there was only one statistics paper that we had done. And I had it, and he hadn’t seen them. He got that paper on statistics regarding this stuff. And we weren’t really into statistics at that point. He said, “I cannot believe it. You guys were into this stuff.” So he took all that stuff, took it back to Texas and copied it, so forth.

Corrigan: So is he at the University of Texas, then?

35

Crawford: No, he’s at—what’s that little town? I have a son down there teaching school. Grandson. What’s that little town? I’m going blank.

Corrigan: That’s all right.

40

Crawford: Wait a minute. Just a second. I want to get this, make this accurate. [pause] I’ve got too many papers.

Corrigan: That’s all right.

45

Crawford: Oh. This is not, I know you’re not into visual deal. This used to be my staff.

Corrigan: Okay. A picture at the department.

Crawford: Mm hmm. And this was earlier, another day. This was another picture. (laughs)

Corrigan: Oh, 1980, okay.

5

Crawford: And this one, this was—here's another one. This is the first biologist the conservation department ever hired. He's been dead now about 20 years. But I'm always sitting off to the side. And Halloween's coming. We were having a Halloween party one night. (laughs)

10

Corrigan: There you are right there. Okay. I can set them right here.

Crawford: Isn't that keen. I've been digging, you see.

15

Corrigan: No, that's okay.

Crawford: God, it's amazing. Okay.

20

Corrigan: Okay. So let's continue on. So in 1949 I have it that you became the chief of wildlife research. Although that title changed many, many times.

25

Crawford: Oh, yeah. They called it superintendent. They called it this, they called it that. But everybody called it the chief of wildlife research. That's what they called it. And we had, at that time, fisheries and wildlife, there was a chief of fisheries. But wildlife, I always went by the word wildlife incorporated everything. But fisheries people were very touchy about that. (laughs) They say, "You left us out." "Well," I said, "wildlife is fisheries, too." "No, wildlife is not fisheries, too." (laughs) So anyway, enough of that. Okay.

30

Corrigan: So could you tell me how you, I read a lot and I saw that—

[End Track 13. Begin Track 14.]

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Corrigan: —one interview you did and it talked about a lot of the, you know, this project was done and this project was done and all these projects were done. But I was curious to know, how did you approach the position? Did you have an idea about what you wanted to accomplish? Or did you see what the people you worked for had interest in? Or did you, I kind of want to know how you approached that job.

40
45

Crawford: Okay. I have some approaches. I always said if you give the people the tools and the environment, I'm talking about personal environment, the environment to do the work, the environment to be happy, the work environment, if you do that and you hire good people and you have a good personal relationship with people, you'll have a successful program. And that was my premise in this whole deal. I was always pretty much noted as a, not a technician as such. I was known as one who develops staff and kept them pretty well. I was noted in Missouri for keeping staff. Lots of states had such poor, poor facilities, poor relationships with staff, people didn't want to stay there. They'd leave in a couple of years

and go somewhere else. Missouri, I think one of the reasons was we had a good legislative base for the operation. The conservation department was so-called non-political. Our funds were—we were a part of state budgets but we didn't have to fight the every year, the budget process with the state. So we weren't self-contained, but we were, through the conservation amendment, the constitutional amendment, we'd pretty much relieved the department of worrying about political problems. We'd have them, oh hell, we'd have them all the time. You'd get a wild hare legislature down here where nobody knows anything. Reeducation. You know. You think you've got everybody educated, and the next year half of them are gone, you've got to reeducate them again. It goes on all the time. But I think my relationship with the thing was I had a way of developing staff somewhat. I did a, traveling around a lot to meetings and so forth, if I was in an educational setting, I'd meet with lots of students. Sometimes they were in the graduate level, sometimes they were in the undergraduate level. But if I saw somebody that was really bright, I'd make a note of that. And when they became available on the market, I'd seek them out. I wouldn't just wait for resumes to fly or an announcement. I'd already been looking at that guy three years. I'd already been looking. Most of these guys came that way. And they don't do that now. That's not done nowadays. "Oh, put your resume on the computer and we'll call you if we want to talk to you." Well, hell, you don't know what you're into. People can write beautiful resumes, you know. They've got books on that. (laughs) But anyway, so I went the personal route. So a lot of these people were recruited in other states. We had a national staff. We had people from everywhere. Just everywhere. And it wasn't because Missourians weren't good. We were getting a lot of Missourians, too. But we were getting people, we got one guy that looks just like you, by God. His name's Dave Erickson. There he is. He kind of looks like you. A little bit. And he, I got him out of Penn State. I saw him. It was the keenest story. And I have to relate it to you because it's heartwarming. He had applied out here and I'd been tracking him. But I'd decided he wasn't the guy. I was getting ready to hire somebody from Illinois. And on the afternoon of a Christmas Eve day, I was at my farm out here. I'd taken off. And I was out there. Had a bunch of horses and I'm fixing a fence. And this big guy was walking across the landscape. And it was this guy from Illinois. He had already accepted the job. And we had the paper flying one.

[End Track 14. Begin Track 15.]

Crawford: He came in and said, "Bill, I can't come. I can't come. My wife won't move." I said, "Well, that's great." I said. And I really wanted him. I went home and I said, "Well who's second on the list?" Well it turned out Dave Erickson. This boy from Penn State. I called him on Christmas Eve night. (laughs) I said, "Dave, this is Bill Crawford out in Missouri." "Oh, yeah, you're the guy that turned me down, aren't you?" I said, "How would you like to go to work for us?" "You mean—" he said. I said, "Yeah. In about a month or two we can clear the paperwork." "Oh," he said, "that would be wonderful. That would be absolutely wonderful." And so that was my Christmas gift to that guy. This guy ended up as an assistant director for our department. He retired out last year. He was with us 30 years. But that's the way I found him. So anyway, that gets back to philosophy. I had a different way, I had an open door policy. Anybody who came to the building could practically walk in. It was never that way before, and it's never been that way since. People are just more private and that kind of stuff. And people, we used to have an open house over there, Christmas

party. Or just an open house on Christmas. Everybody on campus. You couldn't hardly get in the building over there. Now they have one and 15 or 20 people around, but it's not the same now. But I had, and I'm just, I was kind of proud of that fact that people felt so much at home coming over there. And people that didn't like us on campus, you know, you always get
5 people that are anti this and anti that. And we had people on campus that just hated us because of things we stood for. But I've had a lot of them come to me since and say, "We sure miss you, Bill." So I guess that gets down to philosophy a little bit, how staff. And so that's the way staff developed. And you know, it's funny as I look back, I never heard the word "salary" or the word "pay raises" or anything mentioned. Nobody ever came to me,
10 talked to me about that. They were so happy in what they were doing and what they were allowed to do and accomplish. And comfortable in their work and productive work that we just didn't, people didn't hardly know what they were making. They just got their check and this is it. So sure different from today. (laughs) But that's just, time moves on, you know.

15 Corrigan: Yeah. Now I'm going to switch a little bit from the conservation department. You served as president of the Wildlife Society.

Crawford: Yeah. That's the, that's the big, big dog.

20 Corrigan: Yes. Could you talk a little bit about that?

Crawford: Yeah, I sure would. Those jobs just don't come on board overnight. I had served, this, we divided that thing up into regions. We had the Canadian region, we had the European region, we have regions within the state of Missouri, regions within the national firm. So that
25 is the board. The board was about 10 or 15 people. I was on that board six or eight years. And I guess my demeanor or something, they always considered I could make the arguments stop or something like that. And we had some hotheads. I mean, we had, you know, those kind of boards, you have some people that are terrible. But anyway, I came from this setting. And our offices were in Bethesda, Maryland. And we also had a regional office. And there
30 really wasn't but about ten people on the payroll for that international organization. The rest of it was volunteer. I didn't ever get a nickel for anything like that. But I served on that board six or eight years. Then they got me into the business of officers. You became a regional director and you became a third vice president, second vice president, president-elect. My God, I had people in my department, my bosses said, "Bill, haven't seen you for a while. You
35 still, you still working for us?" (laughs) You know that conversation. And every organization has to make contributions to professional societies. Most professional societies work with a tremendous amount of volunteer work. And unless somebody gives along the line, it won't happen. So the conservation department was always very good in supporting travel and so forth and so on. Later on—

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[End 15. Begin Track 16.]

Crawford: It got a little tighter. But so I did a lot of traveling. Made it out of the states. Got down to Mexico and Canada a lot and so forth and so on. Then I became president. That was
45 a one-year term. But then you're past-president. It just goes on and on and on. One of the best things you got to do was the annual meeting. The annual meeting was at some big city in

the United States. I went to about fifteen of those. And the last one that I went to was in Washington, D.C. And at that meeting, I got to hand out the Leopold Medal. The Leopold Medal is the top conservation award in the United States. So I stood up there in front of about twelve-hundred people. Got to give out the—I didn't get the Leopold Medal, but I got to give it out. (laughs) But I stood on the same podium that Reagan, you remember when President Reagan got shot outside the Hilton Hotel there in Washington, D.C.?

Corrigan: Mm hmm.

10 Crawford: We walked to the same door where he was shot and up to the same podium where he had appeared. So I always said, "Well, I hope somebody keeps their guns at home today." But anyway, but it was a touchy period for me. So I developed quite a reputation. Of course when you ran for office, you were running against the top guys in Canada and Europe and so forth and so on. But I guess I had enough deals. [pause] Here we go. I went through some stuff not long ago. Yeah. Yeah, this was my resume that I sent in. You save everything. My resume was sent to the Wildlife Society the year I ran for president. Anyway. A whole page of crap. But I was in that stuff from, let's see, professional, I went into it, I got tied up with it in 1954. And I became president in 1976. So I was involved in it a long time.

20 Corrigan: Now you were talking about, going back to the department a little, the travel and that. Did you always encourage your staff to be actively professional development, actively involved?

25 Crawford: Yeah. Yeah. We had a program that I was a part of. Was not, it wasn't called licensing, it was called yeah, let's see. It was, the professional society gave a, you know, it's just like when you get certified as an engineer or a dentist or whatever it is. We didn't call it licensing, but we didn't have one for the wildlife profession. So we got that started. But I remember it was very controversial. I went on a speaking tour for about three months. I never got to so many bad audiences. The people that are against you really speak up. The people that are for you, they don't necessarily say very much. That was a terrible time. I became kind of a spokesman for that program and traveled a lot. But you know, I don't know what else to say about that, hardly.

35 Corrigan: But you encouraged your staff to be involved and active.

Crawford: Oh, yeah. I'll tell you the way it used to work on travel. I don't think they do it now. Very seldom, in the early days, did we travel by air. I mean, early days. I would get a car and the guys would take leave. And I'd go to a hotel and rent a great big room and everybody would sleep in the room on the floor. And I'd pick up some of their meals. But basically the trip didn't cost the department anything. They just took time off. You don't see any of that now. None of that. So I always had a bunch of guys with me on trips. If I was going, wherever I was going, I was dragging along a bunch. And they always told me that that meant tremendous things for their professional—

45 **[End Track 16. Begin Track 17.]**

Crawford: —development. And you know, it's sad that the public doesn't understand what that means to a professional to be able to exchange ideas and so forth with other people. They think it's a lark. All you do is go and have fun, go to nightclubs and see dancing girls and that kind of stuff. But over my time in the department, if I was in a position, I always had a bunch of guys with me. And that doesn't go on now. Times have changed. And the airplane changed that. (laughs)

Corrigan: Now I wanted to ask you about the Missouri Prairie Foundation that you founded with, I want to say his name correct, Don Christisen?

Crawford: Christisen. C-h-r-i-s-t-i-s-e-n?

Corrigan: And that was in 1966. I have it down you started. And since then, not only, I've read that the membership has grown, but there's a lot of land involved that the group owns and manages. But my question is, I read a lot about you two started it, you did all of these things. But why?

Crawford: Okay, why? It was an excellent reason why. (laughs) That period after the war was a terrible period wildlife-wise. We were moving from the horse drawn agricultural picture to the tractor period. And a lot of these, the prairie resource that Missouri used to be about 15 million acres of Missouri, used to be, in tall grass prairie. And over time, most of that had been lost. They plowed it up. And you don't recreate a prairie. It takes a thousand years for it. You can start to recreate them, and we do that now. But you don't really create a prairie that's taken a thousand years to develop before you stuck a plow into it. Right after the war, all the soldiers, all these farm boys came home and the extension service and everybody else says, "You've just got to go modern. There's no way for you, there's not enough people to operate all this land and do it with horses." So everybody began to switch to the modern agriculture. And modern agriculture was a terrible demise for the prairie resource. And the prairie chicken and the jackrabbit and all these kind of things that live on the prairie, they were going down the drain like crazy. I used to run prairie chicken routes between here and the Iowa line, Kirksville area. And I could easily take you out and show you 200 prairie chickens on a route. And the time I quit that, I couldn't find 100. I couldn't find 50. I couldn't find 25. That whole prairie resource was going under. But they were putting row crops and all this kind of stuff. Well, the department was really under-financed. And when the department first started, we operated on license fees. Almost entirely. And license fees, you can't run organizations on just license fees. It's just like the university. You can't run it on just tuition. You can't run the historical society on just membership. You've got to have some other resources coming in. And so the conservation department was caught up in that same thing. So here we were telling them about all these problems with this resource, the prairie chicken and so forth, and they said we can't, they bought one prairie, Taborville Prairie, down in southwest Missouri, about a couple of sections. They said, "We can't do it. We don't have the money." So old Don Christisen and I, we were constantly fussing about this to ourselves. I said, "You know, maybe we'll just have to go public." So we started contacting a lot of different kinds of people across the state. And we kind of got up a group of about 50 people that were thinking along the same lines. And then we had a meeting here at the student union one day of all these resources. And it was interesting. A lot

of the other conservation organizations, like Nature Conservancy and all those kind of people, they were there. And I said, “You know, we’re thinking about setting up a prairie group.” “Oh, you can’t do that. We’re already, that would be another conservation organization.” I said, “Let’s go around the room and see something.” So I was chairman—

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[End Track 17. Begin Track 18.]

Crawford: —of the session. So we went around and said, “What are you doing for prairie and prairie chickens?” “Well, we don’t have any program.” I said, okay. We went around. Nobody was doing anything on that. Nobody. Even though they didn’t want us to form another conservation, even the federation. Ed Stegner and all that bunch. And finally some of that bunch became board members. But after that day, we decided we would attempt to hold a membership meeting in the old Daniel Boone Hotel here later in that year. And we got about 100 people there. And we, at that time, set up an organization. I had been telling the organization, I had a meeting with Carl Noren, who was the director at that time. Carl was a schoolmate of mine in school. And I told him, “Carl, aren’t we going to be able to find anything to do for the prairie resource in Missouri?” And he says, “Nope. There’s no money.” I said, “Well, we’re talking about going public on this thing and having an organization to help the cause.” He says, “Get busy. Get going.” So in addition to things that we were already doing, we started having these meetings. And we created, Don and I created, the Prairie Foundation. Now it’s got a couple thousand members and our resources are millions, I mean, in dollars. We’ve got maybe a couple thousand acres of prairie. But our real influence on that is bring the attention of the public and the department the value of the prairie resource. And now the conservation department with later resources, we had a second, a sales tax, conservation sales tax. Since that time, we have been able to say, “Now you’ve got some money, man. Now’s the time to put some of that money into prairies.” So the conservation department has gotten active in some prairie acquisition. They have prairie biological staff, they’ve got—so the Prairie Foundation is what’s brought it back about the movement for prairie in Missouri. So we were the guys who started the ball rolling. And we’re highly, highly complimented. And I’ve gotten some recognition for that and that kind of stuff. So that’s the story, that the department just couldn’t do it. But they knew what we were doing and gave us the high sign.

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Corrigan: And is that mostly, you said you’ve raised, or the group has raised several million dollars now? Is it, how do I say, is it donation-based? Was it foundations? Or has it just built up over time, this endowment?

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Crawford: Well, most of our endowment is in land. I mean, we have an endowment. We have endowment, I guess we have maybe a \$200,000 a year budget, that kind of stuff. We only have three people on the payroll. And we have a tremendous volunteer staff.

Corrigan: So there is a lot of volunteers. And there’s also, is it membership-driven, too, with annual dues?

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Crawford: Yeah, it’s membership-driven. But along with membership, gives membership a chance to get involved in better and more financing. And we do touch foundations. We’ve

even convinced the feds sometimes to pour money into this state with their programs. So we've been the advocate for prairie in Missouri. And I think everybody knows that. There's no complaint now. We get along with everybody because we've done such a good job. But at first, it was kind of thin picking. But we stuck around. And Christisen died here about five,
5 six years ago.

Corrigan: Did you have any idea when, I mean, 1966, when you started it, to where you're at now? Did you have this vision?

10 Crawford: No. We knew that the potential was there. But we never did stop working on it. We've had some tremendous people that have been officers. We've had, we've just had some tremendous people who have been presidents and have been all that kind of stuff. So it's been a real fun deal. It's been a fun organization. I go to meetings now, I'm not that active into the administration and all that kind of stuff. Of course, they see my money. That they
15 always like—

[End Track 18. Begin Track 19.]

20 Crawford: —to see your money. (laughs) But I'm still active in it. And they had a really beautiful dinner out for me, out here at one of these eating places here this fall. Had about 150 people there. Had a great evening. It was a fun evening. (laughs) Yeah. Everybody was there that had a joke on me. I thought it ended up kind of a roast. That's the good kind of a meeting. Don't take yourself too seriously.

25 Corrigan: Sounds good.

Crawford: I do have a picture. I don't—do you ever see the Prairie Foundation publication?

30 Corrigan: Yeah. Well, I've seen the one that you were recently in. I grabbed the article that you were in to see that they recognized you.

Crawford: Yeah. Yeah. Let's see, this is, I don't know whether you saw this one, though. I had my family in here from other places. I don't know whether you saw that one, though.

35 Corrigan: I did. I grabbed this one and I grabbed this one from *The Conservationist* recently.

Crawford: Okay. You've done your homework.

40 Corrigan: Yeah. I did my homework. That's my, that's my job. (laughs)

Crawford: You're a good researcher. You better be, or you wouldn't have the job. (laughs)

45 Corrigan: Exactly. I'm going to turn the recorder off for a second and we're going to take just a few minute break.

Crawford: Okay. [pause] I'd like to comment about my local involvement just a little bit. I've been pretty heavily involved in local stuff. It doesn't come out in this environmental stuff, but some of it does. But I was chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission here for eight years.

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Corrigan: In the city of Columbia or—okay.

Crawford: Mm-hm. And at that time, we didn't have hardly a good record. And that was the time, I was one of the ones that helped bring Dick Green. Dick Green was the former chairman of Parks and Rec. department. And he really set this department up. And later on he gave me, I was chairman and he asked me if I'd, that was the time we were involved in buying the historical property at Nifong, Nifong family. Lenoir family. And that acreage was about to be, that was going to be a mall. The Christian church owned it. They inherited it from the Nifong-Lenoir families. So we took trips to Indianapolis and so forth and so on. Finally got them to agree that they would sell it to the city if we could afford to buy it. Well, they started at \$500,000 and we finally got them down to \$100,000. And then we got a \$50,000 grant from the federal land and water fund. So we got Nifong Park for \$50,000 in that setup. So he, he kind of as a reward, he asked me if I'd step down from the chairman of the Parks and Rec. department and become development committee chairman for the park. So that's how come we got the house restored, we got the historical society has the building out there and so forth. And I was president of the historical society for eight or ten years. So all that thing started back in the '60s. And I'm still active in the historical society and here it is 2011. So that's been a great, great story.

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Corrigan: And I was going to ask you that a little bit later. But we can skip ahead if you want. We can talk about that now.

Crawford: No. Well, I'm kind of into it.

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Corrigan: Yeah. Well what I've got down here is that you helped raise the money to help build the museum in 1990 out at the—

Crawford: Yeah. We started in 1984 and we were about five years putting all that together. We started breaking ground when we had half the money in sight. (laughs) That's treacherous business. What I did, I retired in 1983. I just practically walked out of my office and took an office for the historical society. And I did that full time for the next ten years almost.

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Corrigan: Now before the museum, before that was acquired, before that was all built, what was local history in Boone County and Columbia? What were people doing?

Crawford: Very little. Very little. There was no, well, tied to that, I later became a charter member of the Historical Preservation Commission.

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[End Track 19. Begin Track 20.]

Crawford: I was one of those that was in the steering committee that formed that thing. So anyway, but very little. John Longwell was mayor of the town back in those days. And he and I were pretty close friends. And he said, "I'm running for mayor. Would you write my platform in Parks and Rec. and historical stuff?" And I remember he came out in *The Tribune*, his statement on this, I wrote it, so—(laughs) Anyway, and a lot of it came to me. But we've continued well along that line. And it's just been a long haul. Before, when you say what had been done, it was just, Columbia has been a disaster as far as preservation. And you know, we were a little town and we just grew and grew and grew and grew. And every time you grow, you tear something down here. And Columbia really has a poor historical stock because we just tore down everything. But there's stuff here. And now the city works with their historical preservation commission. And of course I'm very active with the historic sites committee for the historical society. We hold dedications. We recently held a dedication on the airport out here and a bunch of things. We've had about close to 50 dedications in the county. You see, Boone County Historical Society is countywide, not just Columbia. And so we're very active in that. And we've got a wonderful program going there. So and of course Deb Shields and all of her bunch working on the downtown history and all that kind of stuff. I'd say history is kind of front page now. At one time, history in this town was considered terrible by the real estate people. They thought an old building or anything old, we should just tear it down and do something with it. Or use the ground for something else. And so when we started the Historic Preservation Commission in town, man, the big bunch that showed up against that was in real estate people. I hate to say that. They were just automatically against preservation, because they didn't like the idea of Columbia being an old, broken down town. They wanted a new, vibrant Columbia. (laughs) Yeah. We were still vibrant. (laughs) We're spreading like a tornado. So, anyway, so I've been a part of all that movement through the years. Not up front in all of it, but I've had my time at battle and that kind of stuff. But I remember when we built the museum. See, the historical society is a private organization. And for us to take four or five acres out of Nifong Park and build a private structure. I appeared before the council about five or six times. I never did get one vote against it. It took some selling. It took a lot of doing and so forth and so on. And it's turned out to be a great deal.

Corrigan: So it's a good public/private partnership?

Crawford: Oh, yes. A wonderful deal.

Corrigan: Did you always like history? I'm just curious where, I never read anything or saw anything. Were you a fan of history? Did you have a love of history? I see that you're heavily involved in it, but—

Crawford: Well, it kind of developed. It developed, through the years I was always interested in family artifacts. You know, family history. My family history is so, so interesting, you know. I go back and sleep in the old Crawford home in Virginia. 1780 house. Sitting on the side of Crawford Mountain. (laughs) But that was developed through the—my dad started writing a genealogical history of the Crawford family back in the '70s. And he got cancer and he died. And my wife, Midge, she picked up on that. See that stack of stuff right there? She wrote six big books of genealogy on the Crawfords and Magruders and her

family and so forth. Her family are Swede. Swedish and German. And so, anyway, but it was the interest in the artifacts and the family and the old furniture, the old things. And my family has just disappeared. They've just died out and things have gone, and I've been kind of the recipient of all this kind of stuff. Kind of the last Mohican. So then she got into that. My dad
5 got into it. Then I tied up with the Parks—

[End Track 20. Begin Track 21.]

10 Crawford: —and Rec. and then got interested in, I was always interested in old houses. Old buildings. And Boone County has been terrible on them! We've had these beautiful country homes. None of them were modern. But people just couldn't find the money or didn't want to find the money to modernize them. So they'd tear them down. And it still goes on. So all of that is the background of why my interest in history. And it's just developed and developed and developed, and now I'm kind of consumed by it. You know, that kind of stuff.

15 Corrigan: And then the museum actually just recently inducted you into their hall of fame.

Crawford: Yeah, well, that's part of it. Because I've kind of been, I'm about the only one standing in the left in that bunch that pushed for that thing. Dr. Hellum(??), who was a guy
20 here in town, he and I worked close on that. And I remember stopping down at the Boone County Bank one day with a bunch of the officers. And I said, "Would you guys like to get involved in helping build a Boone County Historical Museum?" They said, "You know, that might be a good idea. We haven't been very good with history in this town." You got a lot of family history, but that's about it. And that's—we had a lot of people saying when we built that, that's a neat operation out there. I don't know whether, have you ever been? You ought
25 to go into it. It's a neat operation. Wow, wow. And that's typical. That's very typical. We have, I dare say, twenty percent of the Columbians never been in the historical museum out there. It's wonderful. Wonderful. We've got the biggest art gallery in town. And it's the best. No doubt. And it's all private money. We get very little public money out of it.

30 Corrigan: Do you think the trend has changed, then? You said Columbia hated history, hated historic preservation. Do you think it's turned?

Crawford: Well, I think it, it was the real estate look at Columbia for a long time. State,
35 bring state offices in here. Bring this in here. We want to be the center of everything, and so forth. Of course, they've got a little competition from Springfield. (laughs) Lots of competition from Springfield. But anyway. But I think, yeah, there's an element here. But maybe across the board, maybe a few people are interested in history. The problem with Columbia, and it is so typical of a university town. We're such a mobile town. You ask any
40 group of people who was born here or had a family connection here, you can't hardly find them. Everybody's from somewhere else. And the old family deal is still here, but it's hard to find. And I, they say, "I guess your old family—" I say, "Yeah, 30 miles from here in Howard County." I said, "Well, that's the same." You know. We're Little Dixie. Everything around in the seven counties here, we all came from the same spot. The first thousand people
45 that came to Boone County was out of Richmond County—Richmond, Kentucky. Madison County. And we worry about going with the Southeast football bunch? Well, that's where we

came from! All the people came from there. (laughs) That has been brought up incidentally. You know where [Brady] Deaton came from? University of Kentucky.

Corrigan: Okay.

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Crawford: (laughs) That hadn't come up, either.

Corrigan: No. As I mentioned, I'm a Big Ten guy. But yeah, I'm learning it all, yeah.

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Crawford: And I made that, at the little hall of fame out there, I had a chance to say a few words. And I said, "On the side, I notice that there's some consideration of going with the Southeast." I said, "You know, that sounds pretty familiar. Hell, half of us came from there." (laughs) And a lot of people don't want to recognize—we used to play "Dixie" at the football games. They don't do that anymore. (laughs) Okay. But—that's my background on history, why, how I got involved in.

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Corrigan: Okay. Now I want to go back a little bit, and then we'll come back around to what you're going to do in retirement. But I wanted to talk about conservation in general in Missouri. I hear a lot about, and everybody knows you were at that first meeting of the conservation federation. And September 10, 1935. But I had some general questions. Why was Missouri so far ahead, why were they so far ahead in the game? And how did they compare to other states then and now? And—

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[End Track 21. Begin Track 22.]

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Corrigan: —is the main success for the department's success, is it this hand-in-hand backing of the federation? I mean, is it really together they've—

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Crawford: Oh, yeah. Well, that's very easy to talk about. It took a bunch of, it always takes a bunch of interesting people. Back in the, you know, it's not mentioned here very often, but in 1925, '28, Aldo Leopold was hired by the ammunition and the fire arms organization in Washington, D.C. to look into declining game populations of 10 Midwestern states. It's called the Aldo Leopold, it's a hard cover book. Very people ever mention it. He came down here and pointed out that we had had a tremendous wildlife heritage. But we'd gone through it, we'd abused it, we'd done everything. We were doing everything wrong and things were in really bad shape. And he dropped that book was sitting around and a lot of people read it and so forth. And he left town. But in the early '30s was the start of the—the Depression really didn't have anything to do with it. It was the fact that we went through a tremendous drought period. Missouri was just a, it was a dust bowl. Things were really bad. And on top of that, we had a government that anything conservation-wise was a one-year term, or a one-year governor term. It was completely political. The whole staff of the whole conservation activity – fish, game, forestry, anything you want to talk about in that area – when the governor came on board, everybody was fired and he started over from scratch. Just completely! It was atrocious. And there was a bunch of guys, a couple of guys in Saint Louis, and there was a guy in Kentucky, a writer down there, that wrote extensively about conservation and so forth. And Rudolf Bennitt had just come here from the east. And New

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England had some conservation programs going. But it sure hadn't gotten out here. And so here came Rudolf Bennitt, and he began to teach a conservation course at the university. And then E. Sydney Stephens living here in town became they were schoolmates, essentially. (laughs) Not the same period of time. But both went to Harvard. They had something to talk about. And then we had a bunch of these people that had been fighting the governors and the legislatures in this state about why can't we do something for wildlife? We're treating it like a lost child. Every time we get a new governor, you fire everybody and start over. And most of these employees, they just go down the street and pick up somebody. You know, a guy who couldn't get a job in anything else. And this, it was terrible. So this bunch, and the guy Roland Hoerr in Saint Louis was one of those that said, "We need an organization or something to impress the legislature that we've got to do something." And then he began to tie up with a few guys in Columbia and E. Sydney Stephens and there was guys over at Warrensburg and some guys down here in the Joplin area and so forth. About a core of 15 or 20 people. And these people began to lay some groundwork. And out of all that was the formation of the federation bunch. They had the idea. The conservation department had nothing because they were just there for one term of governor and they weren't going to be there. So there wasn't any loyalty, there wasn't anything. They just had a job. So it had took somebody outside of that governmental setting to—well, it was kind of like Prairie Foundation. A private organization coming in and hatching an idea and carrying forth with it. So that's what happened in the '30s is that enough of these people got together. And they also had visits from—

[End Track 22. Begin Track 23.]

25 Crawford: —Aldo Leopold coming in. And he challenged them. He challenged them, "What the hell are you going to do here? You're talking a lot, but what are you going to do?" And so forth. So then they began to put together something. And they had their meetings here in Columbia. And I was just very fortunate. My dad was interested in all this stuff. He and a doctor in Moberly had kind of talked about, "What are they going to do with all this." So when these meetings were held in Columbia, they came down. My dad said, "You want to go along with me?" And I said, "Sure." So I did. So I came down. So that's where it started. And so over the years, there wasn't any doubt about it. The federation put the idea of an initiative petition to the people of the state. They did it. The conservation department didn't do that, because they were all political. They wouldn't be doing it. So they put that thing through and my god, I guess at that time it was the highest percentage of yes votes on any petition drive there ever was. So they got it. And then started the problem of fleshing out that organization, what it was going to do, what it was going to try to do and so forth. And I've got copies of the first annual report. That's very interesting. First annual report. You want the budget on the conservation was on the first annual budget? Four hundred thousand dollars. Now it's 50 billion, somewhere about that. That doesn't tell you anything. And they hired about four or five biologists who were bringing forth the idea of science, and the idea of biological management of the wildlife resource. That was all new. They didn't have any of that with the old game. They had had a state forester, but it wasn't financed, and it was in a separate deal. So when the conservation department came in, they incorporated the forestry part into it, but they also called a guy in addition to the state forester, a state forestry department. See originally, the state forestry guy was this one guy. He didn't have a

department. But the new department, conservation department, included fisheries, forestry, and wildlife. And on top of that, the guy that was a secret to all this was Arthur Clark. Arthur Clark was a conservationist who was head of the—it was either Connecticut or Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission. He was a conservation type of person. He understood some things. And when they looked for a first guy to run the program – I’m not talking about the director, Bodie. I’m talking about, when Mr. Bodie, they put Bodie in. And of course there was tremendous problem of Bodie because he was out of state. They said, “Oh my god, we can’t have a guy head of a conservation department that’s from out of state!” They brought him in from Iowa. (laughs) That just killed her. That killed the politicians, they couldn’t stand that. But when Bodie got in office, and with E. Sydney Stephens in the new commission, they chose Arthur Clark, Arthur Lincoln Clark, to come from Connecticut to Missouri to head up the program. At that time, his title was chief of forestry, fisheries, and game. They were one division. And later on, they broke those out to forestry division, fisheries division, and wildlife division. And then later on they added other information, publicity, publications, all that kind of stuff. But Arthur Clark was the one who put this thing together. Very little attention is given to him. But he was the brains. He was kind of a while hare. He was fun. He liked parties and he liked to do this and he liked to do that. He used to come up to Columbia. And when I had moved back here, there wasn’t a—I’d leased a wonderful house in town. A guy in the school of finance, the business school, went to the army. He was a bachelor but he had a beautiful house off the campus. And I rented that house. Thirty-five dollars a month. (laughs) Furnished. Beautiful home. And when everybody would come to town, they’d say, “Where are we going to get together tonight?” And nobody had a decent anything. There wasn’t any meeting rooms, nobody had, and they’d come up my house—

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[End Track 23. Begin Track 24.]

Crawford: And so Arthur Clark used to come out to my house, and he said, “Bill, how can you afford this?” I said, “Arthur, I’m just paying \$35 a month.” He said, “Oh my god, how’d you get that?” But Arthur Clark, and later on, not very long, he was just here about four or five years, he was hunting in North Dakota. They were making a movie. Remember the name Grantland Rice? That probably doesn’t mean anything to you. Grantland Rice was making a bunch of movie shorts, like comedies and so forth that they used to have in movie houses in sporting, outdoor sports. And this was on pheasant hunting. So Arthur Clark was up in the Dakotas making a movie with Grantland Rice. And he had a heart attack and died. They called back to Missouri and wanted to know, “What do we do with Arthur?” We sent a guy up there and he carried the body into Minneapolis. It was cremated and brought back to Bismarck, North Dakota. And then they called down here and they said they’d like to have a contingent up there to—Arthur Clark wanted his ashes thrown in the Missouri River. So Rudolf Bennitt, Paul Tulenko, which was my boss at that time, and I think just the three of us, we went up there and checked into the hotel at Bismarck and received the ashes. And then the next day we went out there and, you know, it’s hard to get to a river. You get through a lot of little roads getting to a river lots of times. So we went out northwest of Bismarck there. Finally got ourselves down to the river and had this parting with the ashes. We couldn’t get to the water. So we all rode up our britches and took off our shoes and socks and went out in the river. Finally got to the river and put the ashes in the river. So we buried Arthur Clark up

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there. So that's just a side story. So I was involved. And Arthur Clark, I've got a bunch of letters from him about how the work was going along. In fact, I've got one letter from him. I wasn't married when I first went to join the department. And I had to ask for leave to take time off to get married. I got this letter. He said, "Bill, you really haven't been on the board long enough, but I think we can find a way to get you to get to get married." So, I got a letter from Arthur Clark. But anyway, they don't talk about him much. He was only here, I think maybe four or five or six years. I've forgotten the exact date. So they got Mel Steen, who was a, he represented the federal government and the fish and wildlife work up in the northern states. And he applied for the job here and came here. And Mel Steen was the second, and Mel Steen, I've got great pictures of him in this house. I built this house in 1951. And I had an open house and we had a big feed in the basement. There were about 100 people. And Mel Steen and all that bunch from Jefferson City came up here. But Mel Steen, he was a builder. He was good for the department. And then he later on, things weren't quite going his way. He never did get, he wanted to be director of the department. He didn't make it. And he went to Nebraska and was their head of the Nebraska department for about 10, 15 years. But we've been blessed with a bunch of pretty good administrative people in the years gone by. And they were all good at keeping things in place like they were, and really sticking behind the science of what we do. And that's where you can go wrong. Of course, the secret to all that is that our director was chosen by a commission. Not by the governor. And the commission was, of course, chosen by the governor, but it had to be two from – it's a four-man commission – two from the Republicans and two from the Democrats. And they never did pull that political stuff. Four people can think pretty much alike. But you get a big board, 15 people, and there's no way to get everybody thinking down the same lines. So that's kind of the history of that part. So there in 1942, I came on. '41, '42, I—

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[End Track 24. Begin Track 25.]

Crawford: —came on board. I was one of those early birds. I got, I traveled, we'd go into these big conferences. And I was just, see, we didn't have a very big staff. So I was traveling with the commissioners and so forth and so on. And I got to know all those people. And now there's nobody around. So I'm kind of the last Mohican. So that's the way it goes.

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Corrigan: Now were you involved at all with the, I mean, it was the federation that was pushing it in '76. But the Amendment Number One to establish the 1/8 of 1 percent conservation sales tax?

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Crawford: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I passed petitions. I went down to Saint Louis and worked the malls and so forth. Yeah. Everybody, they didn't do it all the time. We did it on weekends.

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Corrigan: So it was volunteer?

Crawford: It was all volunteer. Yeah. It was hard work. You've got to be very outgoing, stand with a clipboard, you know. It's tough stuff.

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Corrigan: Did you also do that with the soda pop tax that didn't pass?

Crawford: We didn't, yeah, I don't remember getting into that that much. You know, I don't think that would have ever passed, though. I don't think that that would have ever made it. See, it didn't make it that far. They had got the proposal but they found out it was written
5 wrong. So it never reached the stage of the petition drive. My friend, Andy Runge, who I used to hunt with all the time, Runge Center, Jeff City, and so forth, he was a close friend. He was the one, he was on board and they just didn't catch that. And they made a mistake. And it was a good thing because the soda pop people and the beer people, Budweiser, particularly, was just, they were ready to put millions of dollars into defeating that thing. So I think it's a
10 good—and we tied it to something else beside—I don't, the conservation department now would be practically defunct if we just had to depend on licenses. You just cannot carry a department on just licenses. There's no way. No way.

Corrigan: Now this is kind of a general question. But in what areas do you think Missouri is
15 spot-on in conservation? And in what areas do you think they still need to improve on? And this could be anything. It could be a specific, I mean, for example I know that recently you know, there's been an effort for the last couple of decades to reintroduce certain animals. There's efforts, and just in general.

Crawford: Well I think I have an opinion on things like that. Status quo is not very good. It's
20 not very good. You don't, you just don't stand still. And I have an old statement, I've said it time and time again. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. And that's science all over. Now we've made some, we've made some bad mistakes. We tried to bring in the, these South American, the African quail, for instance. The bobwhite quail was going downhill. And there
25 was a different kind of a landscape that was required for these other birds. But we brought, we had a big hatchery down in the Springfield area. Produced thousands and thousands of those quail. And they weren't, we put them out. They didn't make it. We tried Korean pheasants. We went to Korea. During the war with Korea, we had guys from the department that were over there. And they have excellent pheasant shooting in the mountains. And some
30 of that stuff was just exactly like Missouri. And they said, "Man, if we just could move that Korean pheasant to Missouri, it might take." Well, we raised, god, we raised 20,000 of them right down here on the greenery between here and Ashland. And I was in charge of that project. And we tried. But it didn't necessarily go over. I think we've still got some of those birds. But they've interbred and so forth. You don't know what you've got now. It was a
35 wonderful bird. And they lasted a few years. But they didn't make it. Then we were into vegetation. All sorts of vegetation. Some of that stuff turned out bad. One of the worst vegetations that ever happened to Missouri as far as wildlife is fescue. Well, we didn't introduce fescue, the department, the university department of agriculture introduced fescue to Missouri. It's very bad for wildlife, as a rule. But—

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[End Track 25. Begin Track 26.]

Crawford: —we don't argue that point anymore. One of the worst talks I ever had to make
45 was appear before the faculty over at the university and tell them their fescue which they just thought was like heaven is very terrible for wildlife. It's so aggressive it just eliminates all the wild type of seeds and so forth that wildlife need. And fescue provides no food at all for

wildlife. But anyway, that's another story. Well, then we got into, if you want to bring it up to date, the elk. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. The elk, they're just, we'll give it a try. Some other states have been very successful at it. And there's no reason why a piece of country can't have it. But everybody, they look at all the—we can't do this because it might affect the farmer. It might affect this. It might affect that. Well the thing to do is if it affects them, you could eliminate the elk. If the elk turned out to be a bad thing, you could eliminate those son of a guns. They're big and not hard to find. It would be like the elephant herd. You can eliminate an elephant herd if you want to. But anyway, so there's always these doomsday people that don't want to do anything. But the status quo with a forward-thinking conservation department like ours, the status quo won't work. You've just got to be on to new things. New this, new that. And that's the whole science of it all. And when we introduce something now, we really have tools to work on the introduction. We've got electronic devices. We've got things that when I first started to work, you didn't have anything like that. So we've got the tools now. If it doesn't work, why, we'll know it. We'll know it. So I have, I think with the kind of department we have, anything you do, you're going to find somebody that doesn't like it. I don't care what you do. Churches are bad that a way, municipal government's that a way, the state's that a way, the federal government, look at it! (laughs) And the conservation department is no different. No matter what we do. And the legislature is a problem. We're not tied to the politics so much at Jeff City. The problems is newly introduced legislators at Jeff City. You get these new guys. They come in. They have a few things they want to do while they're there. What is it, six-years terms that they have now?

25 Corrigan: It depends if you're a representative or a senator.

Crawford: Yeah, whatever. Whatever it is. They come in with a preconceived notion what they're going to do when they come in. If somebody at home has said, "We don't like this, the conservation department," they come in and they try to introduce a bill. We have 15 or 20 bills every year trying to do something terrible with the conservation program. And what you've got to do is try to educate them. Get to be friends with them. Find out how wrong it is and vote them down or whatever it is. But that goes on forever and will continue. And the federation has through the years, and we have an excellent federation now. And David Murphy, if you've met him—

35 Corrigan: I haven't met him yet, but I've heard a lot about him.

Crawford: Yeah. He was one of my boys. He was one of those boys standing up over there. He was a student here. And he has turned out to be the best thing that ever hit Missouri as far as standing up to the legislation. The legislator part of it. He and his bunch, and the magazine they put out and so forth. And he's really good. Really good. So Dave Murphy is the best thing to ever hit. And so as far as I know, the federation is not on the case of the conservation department. They're supportive, but they always have suggestions. You know, every year at their annual meeting, they have 15, 20 things they want somebody to do. And some of them are not up to snuff and some of them are. But I think as far as the federation, we're probably, as a legitimate organization as a private organization to support conservation in Missouri, they're right on. And they've got this deal of encouraging other organizations relating to

conservation to become associate members. They've got 100 of these in the state. Almost every organization that I know that has a touch on conservation is an associate member of the federation. So he's got them all tied up. Now they all have ideas. But some of—

5 **[End Track 26. Begin Track 27.]**

Crawford: —them had gotten crazy. But it does make a cohesive bunch working together and backing up the conservation department. So right now I'd say it's working very good. The governor, we like the governor, irrespective of what the public thinks. I don't know, I
10 guess the, you know, he likes to hunt, he likes getting the young people involved in all kinds of conservation activities. Shooting, bow hunting, fishing, whatever. He's at the middle of all that. So we haven't had many governors in recent years that's done that. And he, I think he likes the program. And he likes the federation. But I was just talking to one of our assistant directors the other day. His sole deal is to work the legislature every year. Try to inform
15 them, he said, "You cannot believe how ignorant they are when they come in." They don't even know what the conservation department does. They're not up on it. And his job is to get them out and see. He takes groups out to show them on the ground what's going on. He said it's true. You think everybody knows what you're doing, but next year, there's a new bunch. You've got to be constantly reeducating. And the university has that problem. You don't
20 always have the old alumni. You've got the new boys. And they've got to be educated. And then their kids have to be educated. So it just goes on and on.

Corrigan: Well I wonder if now that the state has term limits and these terms—

25 Crawford: That's even worse. Because it needs more constant reeducation. I don't know how we ever got, I think people were so dissatisfied with the legislators in Jeff City, they thought anything was better. Anything wasn't better, necessarily.

Corrigan: Now, so you brought up the elk and that. Now some reintroductions have worked.
30 The otters, they were controversial at first but—

Crawford: Well, we're harvesting them now in some areas they can, if they get too many, they take them, you know.

35 Corrigan: But it seems the reintroduction has worked.

Crawford: Yeah. The bass fisherman will never like them. (laughs)

Corrigan: Yeah. That was one, I remember, one of the opposition to it. You know, there's
40 been several reintroductions. I believe one of the ones that wasn't successful was the, was it the grouse? The prairie chicken?

Crawford: The ruffed grouse.

45 Corrigan: Yeah. Ruffed grouse. That's it.

Crawford: I'm not much involved in that much, yeah. I was a member of—I helped haul some of them. (laughs) We traded turkeys with Indiana. Brown County, Indiana, they were catching ruffed grouse for us, wild ruffed grouse. And we were taking, we'd jump in the airplane, carried several crates of wild turkeys, the turkeys have been very successful there.
5 And we'd bring back ruffed grouse. Ruffed grouse are a very, very sensitive animal. They take a different kind of a timber. They take young timber. You get the great big old timber, the big stuff. And everybody thinks big timber is beautiful. But it shades out everything underneath them. And the ruffed grouse are associated with young, emerging timber. And where you're getting no cutting, no management, no open areas, they don't do well. And so
10 we—they did pretty well for a few years where we put them. Now those areas have grown up. And they just, we had open seasons a few years. It was a mistake. See, all along, we were always on the edge of the ruffed grouse range. The ruffed grouse range was in lake states and some of the Appalachian country and some pieces of Kentucky and southern Indiana, no, not southern Illinois. But Missouri used to have a few grouse, but never a lot. But we're so much
15 on the edge that unless we find a really hot spot to put them, it doesn't last. So we've been through that. And it was successful with the limitation of our environment. It wasn't a bad bird for us, but it was just a limitation of what kind of home can we provide those son of a guns with. So it's pretty limited right now. Pretty limited. The more management of the timber we get, the more cutting and management of the timber, but if you just let timber
20 grow up and be big trees that just stand and never do anything done with, that's terrible for—

[End Track 27. Begin Track 28.]

Crawford: —grouse. Terrible for grouse. And that's what's happening in Michigan. Those
25 states that have huge grouse populations, there's been a tendency to let a lot of their timber grow up, and it hasn't been cut. And the grouse have been going down in those states, because the management of the timber has gone along with it. But there's a piece of the public that thinks that timber management is just big trees. And a lot of them say, let them live forever. That works against a lot of your wildlife. It's kind of a damned if you do it,
30 damned if you don't. And deer don't like that. Deer likes managed timber. You get just big trees and pretty soon the deer, they eat just about what they can eat up to, what they can eat on their hind legs. Well, nothing's growing down here on the ground. They get the acorn crop. But that's about all they get out of it. Pretty soon—deer don't like deep timber. There's nothing for them to eat.

35 Corrigan: And now the deer have been very successful in Missouri.

Crawford: Because we've got a very mixed landscape. And it's done well. It's done well. By
40 all expectations. Yeah.

Corrigan: Now do you see the elk getting to that—they're going to manage it quite well. I mean, they seem to be like—

45 Crawford: They won't spread very far. They won't spread very far, and they're not going to let them spread very far. They're easily managed. You can kill them off just so quick.

They're big and easy to find. Yeah. That's right. And they found that out west. Where you don't want elk, you can get rid of them real quick. (laughs) So I don't worry about them.

5 Corrigan: But do you think they'll be here? Do you think they'll be successful in Missouri? Or will that be a—

10 Crawford: If they'll let them be. If we don't have too many—there's two, three ranchers down there with cattle that said it's going to be a catastrophe, I'm going to go out of business, you're taking my livelihood away from me, and all that kind of stuff. It's according to how much noise they make. (laughs) But I think it will probably take us 15 or 20 years to find out if that stabilizes. And so the great experiment goes on. But I don't see how we can get hurt from that one.

15 Corrigan: Okay. Now there's other animals that are working their way back into Missouri, not with the help of the department, but I would guess it's because of the—

Crawford: You mean bobcats and mountain lions and so forth.

20 Corrigan: And bears and what not coming from the south.

Crawford: Well, bears have been here. The best story I have about bears, I never will forget. Down at Willow Springs, down in that area, a guy had a junkyard. This was ten years ago. And this junkyard had a lot of cars in it. But he was also getting waste food and baking goods to feed his hogs with. But he was storing this stuff in these cars. So this guy calls up one day and he says, "You know, I've got an old broken down Volkswagen out here with no top on it. I went out there and here's a bear sitting in the backseat of this Volkswagen. It was eating sweet rolls." (laughs) He said, "What am I going to do? They're going to put me out of business!" They can't do that now. You can't feed hogs that kind of stuff. But anyway, what I said was, "Well, you want us to remove the bear?" I said, "Well, I'll send a, I'll get in touch with the guys." And they went down and trapped, it was one bear. And they trapped him and removed him, put him somewhere else. Bear are never a problem. They're easily harvested. They bait them. They're great on greasy foods and so forth. That's the way they hunt them up in the north. They make a bait station and then shoot them when they come in. Bear, I don't see any problem with bear at all. We're not stocking them. We're just—

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Corrigan: That's what I mean. These aren't animals that the department's introducing.

Crawford: No.

40 Corrigan: But they're coming, or they seem to be working their way back into Missouri.

Crawford: Arkansas.

45 Corrigan: Yeah.

Crawford: Arkansas went to Minnesota and they had some big garbage dumps up there. And they imported about two, three hundred of these bear into Arkansas—

[End Track 28. Begin Track 29.]

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Crawford: —25, 30 years ago. And in time, they took down there. And they're spreading out. And now they're reproducing in Missouri, and we have a bear population. I was just talking to a young man. I went to a scholarship program the other day. I finance a scholarship over there at the university. And the guy they had just given my scholarship to was in graduate school here. But he had just gotten a new graduate appointment at University of Mississippi State, Mississippi. I said, "What's going to be your problem?" "Well, I'm going to work on the black bear in Mississippi." "Well," I said, "they've got them here." He said, "But they don't know what to do with them down there." "Do they hunt them?" "Oh, yeah, they hunt them." They want this graduate student to go down there and spend three years and study the bear in Mississippi. So here we are, shipping off our students down to Mississippi to study bear down there. So we'll be on top of this bear situation. I don't call it a bear situation at all. I figure it's something the bear—this is my pride and joy. Do you know Sabra Tull? Sabra Tull is the one that made the big statue on the capital grounds of Lewis and Clark? She made this. This is one of her deals. So that's the Missouri bear. She made that for me. Isn't that cute?

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Corrigan: Yeah.

Crawford: He's on his back. (laughs) So anyway, the bear is part of Missouri statehood. It was here. We shot them out. In fact, the settlers really liked bear. They liked bear grease, it provided grease. They provided skin. It provided meat. They liked bear. I think it's terrible. I've eaten some and it's terrible. (laughs) I don't like bear. But yeah, I think there's a place for bear in Missouri. You've just got to watch them.

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Corrigan: Is that the mountain lion, it's working—

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Crawford: Oh, that mountain lion business is so screwed up. I don't think the mountain lions are going to find a place here. I don't think they can live here and reproduce.

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Corrigan: It's just going to be the stray males that come in and—

Crawford: Yeah, stray animals slide over across—they're here. And they travel long distances and so forth. The local press and the local KFRU have a lot of fun with this, don't they. (laughs) I don't know what they talk about, particular KFRU's talk show. Some days they'll spend the whole time talking about that. (laughs)

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Corrigan: Now these are just some general questions about Missouri. You've been here a long time. You've experienced the wildlife and environment a long time. How is Missouri doing now in regards to, you know, are they developing it and is the population developing and growing too much? Are the streams and water supply, are they decent?

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Crawford: Well a lot of the things that have happened, it's happened from an agricultural and an economic basis. When I first went to work for the conservation department, there wasn't a soybean, there wasn't a soybean field in Missouri. Is that different? Everywhere you look, there's a soybean field. And the soybean was one of the reasons that the prairie disappeared. We've had irrigation enter into the picture as far as wildlife. Irrigation in Missouri is not very profitable because we're kind of in that zone of too much water, not enough water. So we're not like Kansas and some of those states where if you're going to have a cornfield, you've got to irrigate it or you won't have corn, you know. And we do have a population increase. Missouri is becoming more of a—well, I don't know. The countryside is kind of empty. Remember, countryside in Missouri used to be, there was a country store, a little town about every one day's ride on a horse. That was about the story. Every time you had to ride much more than a mile, two, three miles to get to a grocery store or to a store, there would be a store there. And now that whole system is broken down. We have all kinds of highways across everywhere. You have the car, which knocked out that part. So the country store is gone. The country communities. The country church is gone. The country schools have gone. My dad used to be in charge of all the country schools in Ralls County. He said the greatest problem—

[End Track 29. Begin Track 30.]

Crawford: —the worst day of his life was when he had to tell 30 schools they had to close their door. They were done by state regulation. So Missouri has really changed. And the wildlife crop has changed. Since the quail, you can bring back quail on a limited area, but you've got to do intensive management and it's going to cost you some money. It's going to be very expensive for you to do it, but you can do it. But statewide, quail is kind of an endangered species. We used to have a million, three, four hundred thousand people hunting quail. Now we're doing to less than 50,000 a year in Missouri. But on the other side of the coin, the turkey deal has come on board. Thank God we've got the turkey and the deer. And if we didn't have the turkey and the deer, we would really be hurting. Because we don't have the rabbit and the quail crop out here. So we've traded the farm game for the turkey and the deer. So that's been a big switch. Big switch. Industry in Missouri likes deer hunting. They sell lots of equipment. So the economic impact of the deer herd is fantastic in Missouri. It's really big. Big. So that part is probably pretty good. Turkey's the same way. But new, fishing is one of those things that you can continually—when I first came on board, there was no such thing as a farm pond. There wasn't any farm ponds. Now there's farm ponds everywhere. Small lakes. We've got the big reservoirs, which provide all this constant bass tournament stuff. So the fishing tends to go upward and upward and upward, because everybody can, including a little kid, can catch a blue gill. But to hunt is another problem. It requires great preparation. Better firearms. Better this, better that. Patrolling, licenses, so forth and so on. So there's been a tremendous switch. The waterfowl, when I came on board, there was no waterfowl areas. We had no waterfowl. Swan Lake and all these waterfowl, none existed. It was all private. So we've provided a lot of that. And we still have waterfowl. Though the waterfowl resource, even though we have ups and downs in it, this year is evidently good because it's the Canadian and the northern prairie stuff that brought. In other words, the crop of the year in waterfowl is one that you have a good year or not. And the environmental impact on the waterfowl is tremendous. Because Canada is getting rid of their

waterfowls very fast. But Ducks Unlimited jumps in there. They do their thing and it's very successful what they do. But they can't stem the tide for what's going on. It's common sense. So, but as you well know with, the interest in conservation in Missouri with more recent years we've gotten people more interested in the total nature story. As you see by *The*
5 *Conservationist*, and by our calendar and by everything else. We're into botany, we're into lepidoptery, we're into butterflies, we're into everything. Which is really good because there's a public out there that likes this. And there's always this argument. You have this argument in the department. You have it because the people that are interested in shooting and game and so forth and so on think every time you spend a nickel on nature study that
10 you're not giving enough money to the wildlife and fisheries side of it. So you have that—but that's not causing us great problems. For a while, it did. Because it was a new program for us to be interested in nature study and nature itself. And the guys who shot quail and all this kind of stuff just had a fit. You're spending all your money on something else and you weren't supposed to do that. Oh, yes, we were. The constitution says we should. But we
15 hadn't got—so that has changed. But the audience, this urban audience, this city audience, they can—

[End Track 30. Begin Track 31.]

20 Crawford: —protest nature easier than they can a rabbit or a quail or a deer or a turkey. Or a bass. They can have it in their backyard. So the conservation department is really tooled up to satisfy this building up of interests, particularly from urban areas, on nature side rather than the hunting and fishing side. But you've got to be very careful how you balance that. Because you've got, if you don't do this, they're going to bite you. If you go to do this, they're going
25 to bite you. So it's a tedious deal. So we ride the fence on that stuff. But we were interested in both of them, but you've just got to serve both kinds of people.

Corrigan: Okay. Did you know Charlie Schwartz at all?

30 Crawford: I went to school with him.

Corrigan: Okay. You did. His name comes up a lot.

Crawford: I can talk forever on him.

35

Corrigan: On contributions to conservation in Missouri, his wife Libby's name comes up an awful lot.

Crawford: Yeah, she was a professor at the university.

40

Corrigan: He was one of the names I didn't hear you mention today.

Crawford: Well, I'll tell you about it.

45 Corrigan: I mean, would you talk a little bit about him?

Crawford: Sure. I know quite a bit. I know a lot about him. I've canoed with him and all this kind of stuff. When he came to the university, he was a Saint Louis boy. His dad was a dentist. And he got—and he liked to draw. He liked to draw. And he started, he came in here and Rudolf Bennitt got him. And you know what he studied when he was in school?

5 Undergraduate study? Cottontail rabbit. (laughs) Nobody associates Charlie with cottontail rabbits. That's what his thesis was. But in that process, the conservation department was just getting started. And they wanted to provide the funds to study the prairie chicken. And that was one of the first programs, that was one of the first science programs that the conservation department got into. So Charlie, as a graduate study, took on the prairie chicken study. And
10 he just did it all. He visited every lek and every prairie chicken location in the state and mapped it out and so forth and so on. I was in class with him. He spent about two full years doing that. Incidentally, the car he used—oh, this is really funny—was a 1940 Chevrolet. They had quit making Chevrolets, but he got one of the last ones. Practically a new car. A state car. They checked it out to him. And he practically tore that car up. And when he, see at
15 the end of that study, the state, Hawaii wasn't a state yet. But Hawaii wanted, their wildlife was in terrible shape out there. And he went out there and did a study of wildlife in Hawaii. Two years. And he took his wife out there. And they left Missouri. And he wrote a book on it. Then after he came back, he did not reenter the science part of the program. He was drawing and taking pictures and doing this and doing that. And also starting to write his book
20 that he wrote on mammals. And so he came back with the department as a photographer and artist and so forth. So, but, I got to know Charlie when he was still working on his prairie chicken stuff. He had a little house out here north of town on, you know that area on Rangeline? All those new houses out there forever? Forever, to the west, west and north, east and north of Rangeline, going out of town. That was one farm. And there was a little white
25 house sitting out in the middle of that son of a gun. He and Libby rented that house. Twenty-five dollars a month. And lots of times when we had get together, Charlie would say, "Well, you can't hurt my place. Just come on out there." So all the gang would end up out at Charlie Schwartz' house. We had lots of get together out there. But he was developing his talents. His artwork is fantastic. He was starting to make movies. The first big movie that he made in
30 Missouri, first big one, was the bobwhite quail. So that's where he started. So I really got to know Charlie. And Libby was a close friend of mine. I still correspond with her. She lives in Corvall—

[End Track 31. Begin Track 32.]

35 Crawford: —Oregon. Idaho. Idaho.

Corrigan: Idaho. I think she's in Idaho.

40 Crawford: And his daughter, her daughter lives down the street from her. And she's got dementia. She can talk to you, but she won't remember what went on today or yesterday. You know, one of those things. But I get Christmas cards from her all the time. So anyway, in the Prairie Foundation, we were very fortunate. We found a great prairie out there a few years ago. It was such a neat prairie. We designated it to Charlie Schwartz. And Charlie was
45 still alive and Libby was still alive, so they got to come out and be there for that occasion. And they now are so proud that that prairie's named Schwartz Prairie. Very, very nice.

Charlie was really an interesting one. I had a lot of fun times with him. I'll never forget, this is a sad deal. Charlie was showing one of his movies at a meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Saint Louis. Downtown. And they would not let us, and I was a part of that, because I was in charge of the program for that meeting. But Charlie was the featured deal. It was at a
5 conservation meeting. Midwest Fish and Game Conference. And Charlie was going to show his movie. But he was going to take his own projectors in, big projectors. And the union would not let us do that. Because the union had a contract with the hotel that everything that went on in that hotel, they would provide the equipment and the projectors. We had never run
10 into that before. Well, we got it all set up. And at the last minute, they didn't show up with their equipment. But they—we were going to use ours. And they didn't know how to wire it up. And when they started up with that affair, and there was 300 people in the audience, they blew the machine. (laughs) Had it hooked up to 220 instead of 110. So the meeting, so I remember Charlie was there to introduce the movie that night. I remember, he could cuss. You know, it's funny. This is an inside joke. Charlie really loved to hunt. He really liked to
15 hunt. [unintelligible] He always had a big batch of black labs. And he had, funny, bunch of retrievers, funny dogs. But they were really good. But he really liked, he was a killer. He really liked to hunt. And we always said, "Charlie, if there was just one duck left in North America and it was out in front of you and the season was on, would you shoot it?" "Why," he said, "hell, yes!" (laughs) He really liked to hunt. Really liked to hunt. And they had a
20 tremendous family set up. They did a lot of canoeing. And they always took their kids along with them. I've been on a bunch of trips with them on that. I've got a canoe in my backyard. I've got a diary(??), I'm not going to show it to anybody, but it's got 5,000 miles on it in that boat out there. (laughs) I bought it, I bought it in the early, when they first started putting out Grumman Canoes. And it's got a low number on it. You know, Grumman got into that
25 because they had a surplus aluminum left over from making aircraft. And when they weren't making aircraft anymore, all of a sudden they start using all this to make canoes. So it's Grumman Canoe. That's how it got its name. And when I got that thing, I'd saved up money from singing at funerals and stuff in town. Singing, you know, that kind of stuff. I had \$165. I have the invoice on that canoe out there. \$164. That's what the canoe cost when I bought it
30 in 1948. It's sitting out there now. (laughs) So my canoeing kind of goes back to Charlie. He's the one that kind of got it started. I've got a couple stories about canoeing. With Thomas Hart Benton, you know, he used to make forays into the Ozarks on the Jacks Fork and the Current and so forth. I was at Fredericktown. And he wanted to take a trip on the canoe. I believe it was Le Bois(??). So the conservation department was being, trying to be
35 helpful to him.

[End Track 32. Begin Track 33.]

Crawford: So, anyway. So I was one of the crew that got to be out with him three days on
40 the river. And that was really fun. Yeah. He could cuss. He could really cuss. I told your head honcho over there at the historical society, I said, "I could tell you a story about Thomas Hart Benton." He said, "Did you know him?" I said, "Well, I was on a canoe with him." We had jon boats at that time. So that's kind of an interesting story. (laughs)

45 Corrigan: So he was an interesting character? You said cussed quite a bit?

Crawford: Oh my god. Cuss and smoke. But he was very talented. But he was living in Kansas City at that time. But occasionally he'd take a trip down to the Ozarks, you know some of his pictures are Ozark stuff. And he was just accumulating a bunch of drawings and so forth. Always had that little drawing and pencil stuff. You know, pencil stuff. But that was
5 interesting. So I got that while I was at Fredericktown. I was down there for two years. And I got involved in a lot of that kind of stuff while I was down there. Also got involved, another cute story, I lived next door do the conservation agent. And I had a big garden. I was raising a lot of sweet corn. I said—one day he had just confiscated a big bunch of bass taken out of season. I said, "What are you going to do with those?" "Well," he says, "they're already
10 spoiled. I don't know what I'm going to do." I said, "Let's play Indian." So we went out and used a bass to every corn plant. Man, did I have a corn crop! (laughs) Played Indian that summer. How about that? Yeah. Yeah. Those were different days. Anyway, oh, I wanted to tell you, you haven't come across my TV work.

15 Corrigan: No, no I haven't.

Crawford: Okay. Well this is very good. You need to know more, you need to—when KMOU—

20 Corrigan: KOMU?

Crawford: KOMU, I guess.

25 Corrigan: That's all right.

Crawford: When they first started up, it was a pretty loose affair out there. They didn't know what the hell they were doing. But they had gotten a bunch of program directors and so forth. And the program director lived right over here on Rollins Road. Rollins Road. And we were talking one day he said, "I understand you're with the conservation department." He said,
30 "You know," he said, "there's no conservation programs on our station at all." And of course there wasn't any. Jeff City wasn't, and KOMIC, so they had the audience. And I said, "Well, why don't we just put on a conservation program?" "Well," he said, "what would be a good time?" I said, "Well, Friday evening. You've got the fights, you've got the sports show. Why don't you slide us into the—" He said, "I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll put you on with the
35 fight deal. When them fights are short, we'll plug you in. And the fights were set up for an hour. So if the fight lasted ten minutes, we had the rest of it. If the fight lasted fifty-five minutes, we had five minutes. And that went on for a year and a half. I had almost 100 shows out there. Thirty-minute shows. And it was so much fun. It wasn't formatted. We had lots of visitors, lots of things, lots of live animals, lots of this, lots of them. There was no record kept
40 of it.

Corrigan: What was the name of it?

45 Crawford: Sportsman's Show. By the Missouri Conservation Department. Friday evenings. And after everybody had gone home for the weekend, here I was traipsing out there to spend the evening. And sometimes they'd get out there, and they had traveled 100 miles to get there

and we'd have 10 minutes. But we might have thirty. So I was the bullshitter. Pardon me. You had to fill the time. We had a lot of good stuff, though. I could write a book on things that happened. It just was something else.

5 Corrigan: So you never knew how long if you'd be on. You never knew—

Crawford: But we could stretch it. We always had enough things in mind, and things were going on. And there was no, you couldn't use slides. You had to take pictures on cardboard and show it to the camera. We had a raccoon show one night. And I'd had the local furrier
10 downtown had shipped a sheered raccoon coat in, \$5,000 coat. And I asked him if he had a raccoon coat. He said yeah.

[End Track 33. Begin Track 34.]

15 Crawford: —okay. Well we used it on the show. So we got this raccoon out there. And we were talking about raccoon hunting. We had some dogs. We had raccoon, this tame raccoon with a chain around its neck and so forth and so on. The damned raccoon, pardon me, broke his collar that night. And he was loose. He jumped up on the camera. (laughs) And looked
20 down at us like crazy. Then he jumped down on the table. I tried to catch him and he bit me and I bled like a stick hog. And I put a handkerchief around—the camera's still on. And then he went over and got on this fur coat and started chewing it. Anyway, it all came out fine. But they said that was the best show we ever had. They said, "It was fabulous, Crawford! How did you survive?" But after those shows, we'd have call-in time. I could sit out there an hour. People were calling in everywhere about the show. And they said that 200,000 people
25 were watching that show all the time. We had the market out in central Missouri. The only outside conservation show was from Kansas City or Saint Louis. Joplin hadn't picked up, nobody had picked up on that stuff. But we were free. But the thing that really was, that they really liked us was, I said, you know, they didn't have any commercials. They hadn't been able to sell anything. I said well, they said, "You got any ideas?" I said, "Yup." There was a
30 representative of Johnson Motors here in town. Johnson Motors and you know all that bunch. And I went down and talked to him. And I said, "Do you think that Johnson Motors might want to sponsor the program" He says, "Well, send us the stuff." And by gosh, the Johnson bunch showed up and went down to the TV station. And that was, they sponsored us for the rest of the time. So they were really proud of us for finding them a sponsor.

35 Corrigan: And you said that was about a year and a half that this took place. What year are we talking about?

40 Crawford: Well, it was about '54, '55, something like that. So then I had a partner, a P.G. Barnickol. And he took another job and wasn't available, so I had it by myself. But I sure had fun. We had a snake show one night. And we, just before the snake show, we were going to try to feed the snakes with something live. We went out in front of the TV, and there was a big puddle of water out there and there was a bunch of spring peepers out there. And we
45 caught a bunch of those things and took them inside. And some of these little snakes, my god, they saw these little frogs, you know. And they just, they liked them. So we had, it was a two-camera show. Some of the shows we had one camera. It was a two-camera show. And

one of the guys I don't think had ever been out of Brooklyn in his whole life. I don't think he'd ever seen anything except a concrete street. And he fainted. He fainted and fell to the floor and the camera went this way. And we finally got it all straightened around and so forth. And that, we got lots of, they said that was one of the better shows, too. (laughs)

5

Corrigan: No, I've never heard of, I've never seen anything written about that, so it's kind of—isn't really documented well then that it existed.

10

Crawford: Yeah. And in fact, the early records, I'm not sure if it even shows up on the TV records out there. But I have some pictures my wife took of the TV set. I've got a series of pictures of some of the guests. That's all I've got. They didn't save, they didn't save, it wasn't taped.

15

Corrigan: It was just live.

20

Crawford: Live! Live TV, boy. Really live! (laughs) So I got involved, and then later on the conservation department developed a full time show in Joplin. And that went, that, there was a conservation agent down there. And then we made enough noise that Harold, the big sports show guy in Kansas City invited us down there. Dick Vaught, my waterfowl man and me went down there and spent, two or three times. We went into Saint Louis and took a show with us. So the word got around, so we got to visiting around with other shows. And one time we got them here. So that went on. It was fun, though. It was really ride them, cowboy. It would never happen today.

25

Corrigan: Yeah. One of the other things I noticed, in July you were honored with the master conservationist by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Crawford: You see this?

30

Corrigan: I do. I saw that behind me sitting there earlier. So I wanted to make sure I said that—

[End Track 34. Begin Track 35.]

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Corrigan: —on the tape and brought it up.

40

Crawford: That was fun. That brought a lot of people, a lot of old timers. The department, they have that program. I used to serve on that committee when I was with the department. And I helped pick a lot of the early ones. And I never thought anything about it. But I think a lot of things happened within this last year. Some things happened. And a little attention, of course. I got a couple columns with as old Bill Clark, so that kind of stuff. Bill Clark can expose you. He can expose your underwear. (laughter) He really can! (laughs) And he's a good friend of mine. But anyway, he printed a lot of crap. Pardon me. A lot of good stuff. So the department, I think, there was several people that understood I was kind of a part of the early science effort in the department. I was one of those early birds. And they said, "There aren't many like you, Bill. Somebody will do something." So the nominations flew on that

45

thing. And then the Prairie Foundation had already done some stuff. And I'd worked with the federation on some stuff. So this last year has been kind of interesting.

5 Corrigan: You've got a busy year.

Crawford: Been a good year. (laughs)

Corrigan: Now I read you have four boys, right?

10 Crawford: Three boys and a girl.

Corrigan: Oh, three boys and a girl, okay.

15 Crawford: Boys' names are William Lance, Charles Todd and Thomas Brant. Crawford. And my daughter's name—

Corrigan: What was the last one? The third boy?

20 Crawford: Thomas Brant. B-r-a-n-t.

Corrigan: Okay. What's your daughter's name?

25 Crawford: My daughter's name is, well, her name is Martha Louise, but she goes by the name of Marci. She—I need to make a comment about her. She's married. Married an executive with Union Pacific and he's retired. They live in Dallas now. She took an art degree from the university and from, I don't know whether she got her degree or not. They wanted her to teach art. She wanted to be an artist. So I'm not sure she got her degree. But she developed art around then(??). They lived in Houston. She got in the art colony down there, be getting to make a name for herself. She moved to Dallas and now she's a part of the
30 really, really good stuff. She is, little stuff, big stuff. She has a process that nobody knows how she does. She has 14 different finishes into a picture. Oils. And she's into a lot of galleries. November the fifth, she's got an opening in a big gallery in Asheville, North Carolina. She wanted me to come and I don't think I'm going to go. But she's got 40, 50 pictures on display in a big gallery in Asheville. So she's big time.

35 Corrigan: And you said mostly oil and—

40 Crawford: Yeah. She can do everything. She can do most anything. She's very, very talented. And she's got a beautiful studio. She's got a big two-story studio back of her home in Dallas. And she just—

Corrigan: Now what's her—does she use her married last name or no?

45 Crawford: Harnden is the name.

Corrigan: Can you spell that?

Crawford: H-a-r-n-d-e-n. Harnden.

Corrigan: Okay.

5

Crawford: Got two boys.

Corrigan: Yeah. I saw you have about five grandchildren.

10 Crawford: Yeah. I've got that. Grandchildren. And I've got two new great-grandchildren this last year. And you see I'm remarried. Oh, I didn't tell you. I have to tell you this story.

Corrigan: Go ahead.

15 Crawford: When I was at Moberly Junior College, I went with the one I married. But I also, when I was there, I went with another girl. And she was more aggressive than the other one. She wanted me to really get married while I was still in school. And I said, "No, I'm not going to do that." So she went off and she married a soldier during the war. They had three great kids. One turned out to the FBI and two was, one was a dean at a college, and the other
20 one, so forth and so on. But anyway, after my wife died, she heard about it. She had kept track of me, I'm sorry to say. She had kept track of me all through the years. I had not kept track of her. I didn't know where she was. She'd lived in Puerto Rico ten years. And she had a son that was a swimmer, was in the Pan-American Games, almost made the Olympics, all that kind of stuff. But—

25

[End Track 35. Begin Track 36.]

Crawford: —she wrote me a note and said, "Bill, I'm so sorry to hear Midge has passed away. And I'm sorry. I'm just sorry to hear." She knew about it because she was in touch—
30 there's a lot of Moberly people in Columbia. So she had these Moberly people, these Columbia-Moberly people had always been in touch with her. And every time I did something, the word got out there. Well anyway, she called me. So I didn't write her, I just picked up the phone. She said she almost died when she, she hadn't heard my voice in sixty years. (laughs) And she said, "What are you doing out there?" I said, "Not much." She said,
35 "Well, why don't you come out and see me?" Her husband had died seventeen years previous. She had a nice home in Orange, California. So I went out there and visited. And two years later, we were married. And that lasted ten years, and she passed away. So I married my—

40 Corrigan: What was her name?

Crawford: Jimmie. Jimmie Brown. The original name was Diehl. Jimmie Diehl. And she's now buried in Moberly. So the two gals I went with in Moberly Junior College, I married both of them. And they didn't like each other. (laughs) They did not like each other.

45

Corrigan: That's funny. How did she spell her first name, Jimmie?

Crawford: J-i-m-m-i-e.

5 Corrigan: Okay. That's how I spelled it. Okay. There's something, along with your family, I heard, all your children went to MU here, didn't they?

10 Crawford: Yeah. All of them went. One took in community development. He's in Greenville, South Carolina. Vice president of a big company that deals with housing and so forth. And Marci's in Dallas. Todd worked for DNR as a section chief on environmental stuff and retired last year. And has a farm and a nice acreage over at Holt's Summit. And my boy local he works for parks and rec and is in charge of grass for, he's agronomist for the golf courses.

15 Corrigan: Okay. One thing I read, and you just mentioned it a little bit today, but you had a farm outside of town where you raised horses and setters, correct?

Crawford: Yeah.

20 Corrigan: Could you tell me a little bit about where it was, how big it was, what kind of horses you raised?

25 Crawford: Sure. Well, my wife Midge had a sister. Evelyn Sandburg. She went to the J-School here. Of course her home had been in Decatur, Illinois. And Moberly. She went to Moberly Junior College, too. She took a degree in journalism. And after that, but the war caught her. She became a Red Cross, they didn't call them nurses, whatever they were. She was on Okinawa during the fighting over there. And she met a soldier and eventually married him. And they had a boy, Chris. And they, then later on she came back to the States and lived out on an Air Force base someplace. Then she came back to Illinois and she, for a while the husband was a part, was Hawaiian. His name was Pali. You know Pali Boulevard in Hawaii?
30 The biggest boulevard. He was of that family. But they moved back to Illinois and he was an engineer. And she taught school. She became a writer for the Caterpillar tractor company. She was editor of their magazine. And then she became, her boss at the local paper became a senator in Washington. She moved to Washington and became his first administrative assistant. She was there thirteen years. In the meantime, she had divorced. And the boy was
35 growing up and now was at Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington. She called down here, said, "Bill, Nixon has just been turned out of office." She said, "I'm on the Republican—

[End Track 36. Begin Track 37.]

40 Crawford: —side. I can't stand this place any longer." She really knew everybody in Washington. She said, "Bill, what are you going to do for me?" (laughs) I said, "What do you want to do?" She said, "I want to come back to Missouri." I said, "What do you want?" She said, "I want a farm." I said, "Well, how about if I buy you a farm. If I buy a farm, you'll
45 bring your horses." She had horses. She came back here and we found that piece of property out there. And we had an old nine, ten-room Civil War house built by the Bass family on this

property. I bought this farm. And she was part owner but she didn't have the money to follow up on it. So we moved her in out there and had the horses. And we raised horses. Had about ten horses out there. Mostly were three, if they were not boarder horses they were three-gaited American saddle horses. She, we didn't raise dogs. She raised the dogs. She was in the dog business. But she didn't make any money on that, but she raised dogs. So my family, during that period, were getting engaged, were being married. We had weddings out there. I saved the house. When we bought that property, the guy said, "I guess you don't want the house." I was really buying it for the house, because of the historical part of it. It was slave-built. Beautiful home. Flying staircases and all that kind of stuff. But I put on new siding and roof and saved the place. And modernized it. But when, later on, my family all grew up. We had a great time with all that. Never made a nickel out of the farm. But she lived there and she worked for a financial, for Mr. Purdy over in financial aid. He became a big dog in the system for financial aid. And she, her deal was, he had so much going on in Washington, she was his eyes and ears in Washington. She knew everybody in Washington. So anyway, but she developed a problem and she passed away. And she had moved back to Salzburg, Maryland, with her son. He was a pilot and had flown B-30s to Iraq and Iran and all that kind of stuff. And then he got on with NASA and was flying airplanes around the world with NASA. But anyway, she went back to live with him and didn't last for about six months. I had the farm. I was, my wife, both wives had passed away. And I said, I don't need this place. I've had 35 years of it. I don't need it anymore. It's just a headache. So I sold it. I sold it to a university professor over here. And they have since spent big money on the place. It's a treasure. And now it's on our historic sites for the Boone County Historical Society.

25 Corrigan: Where's it located in proximity to Columbia?

Crawford: It's on Rangeline, it's about two miles north of the airport. On Rangeline.

Corrigan: Okay.

30 Crawford: There was a blacktop road coming out from the—it's one mile in from 63 north and south.

Corrigan: Okay.

35 Crawford: And it's now, it used to be gravel. It's now blacktop. But it feeds right into the airport. That's where it is.

40 Corrigan: Yeah, I just had read it somewhere, there was one little line somewhere, and I picked up on it. And you had mentioned earlier, so I just wanted to ask about the farm and that.

Crawford: I'll show it to you. Oh, my. Getting up and down is a problem. This will save you a trip out there. (laughs) Aerial photograph.

45 Corrigan: Okay.

Crawford: How about that. That place was owned by early settlers. Patented in 1829. Had nineteen owners, that place had had. Everybody that ever owned it went broke. That's farming for you. They'd make it for two or three years. Then they'd have a bad year. And they owe the bank. And the bank gets it. And I've got the abstract. The abstract is like
5 reading a book. It's something else. But she, this picture was taken by her son. He flew in in a helicopter one day from somewhere. And he landed on the property. And he took this picture while he was up there in the U.S. helicopter.

Corrigan: Okay.

10

Crawford: (laughs) Isn't that great?

Corrigan: Yeah. It's a nice picture, too.

15

Crawford: It's a good picture.

[End Track 37. Begin Track 38]

20

Crawford: Yeah. Yeah. That's a fun deal. So I sold it. And never had any regrets. I got the right people in there. And they just absolutely love it to death. (laughs) So that's good.

Corrigan: That's good. And I saw somewhere you're a member of the Kiwanis Club.

25

Crawford: Yeah. I'm the oldest member in the Kiwanis Club. Is that something to be proud of? (laughter) When I went to Fredericktown, I was a member of the Lions Club. And that was about the only major club down there. And it's a great way to get to know the community. And I had a lot of fun down there. I moved to Columbia and the Lions Club wanted me to join up here. But I met a bunch of the people in the university and so forth. And you know, I was a state employee. And state employees kind of get isolated from the
30 community if they're not careful. Boy, and I was a community guy. I really, see, I was six years on the planning and zoning commission. And I was six or eight years with the parks and rec. I was historic preservation. I was on umpteen type of committees in the city. But all that came because of connections through the Kiwanis Club. Of course that is 125 people, a cross section of the community. That's the best thing I ever did was join a service club to get
35 to know people. So I joined in 1945. How about that? And I'm still a member. So how many years is that, I don't know. But I'm now—

Corrigan: Quite a few.

40

Crawford: Yeah. And I've been kind of the ringleader for the pancake day.

Corrigan: And I mentioned earlier, I just want to mention on the tape, though, that I did get a copy of an oral history interview that covered a lot about specific research you did that Joe Dillard, John Lewis and Wayne Porath did in 2004.

45

Crawford: Oh, God. Yeah.

Corrigan: I'm going to put a copy of it along with this.

Crawford: Well, I don't care what you put.

5

Corrigan: Just because I don't know that it's really, it was hard to find. I don't know that other people would be able to find it.

Crawford: I doubt it. I doubt it.

10

Corrigan: But I'm just going to add it along with it. Because it, I didn't want to cover alto of stuff that was in there because it was very specific to the department and experiments and people. So I thought that was already covered. So I wanted to cover all this other stuff that I didn't see—

15

Crawford: How do you, how do you stack this stuff up? Do you take this oral history and make written material out of it?

Corrigan: First I'll make a CD out of it.

20

Crawford: Okay.

Corrigan: And I'll give you a copy and I'll keep a copy for the historical society.

25

Crawford: That will be interesting.

Corrigan: And then, and you can share that with whoever you want. You can give it to whoever. Your children, or grandchildren.

30

Crawford: I'll sell it. (laughs)

Corrigan: And then what will happen after that is eventually I'll make a transcript. Eventually. I'll add it to the list. There's about, it takes a long time to make that transcript.

35

Crawford: I know.

Corrigan: So there will be a backlog. I just keep putting them in order. It depends on if I get, I have some volunteers, but they, it depends on what their interests are. If they only are interested in this kind of topic, that's the transcripts they get done.

40

Crawford: Well this, right where I live, this area became open. This Quarry Heights subdivision. Eighty-five homes here. I was one of the first builders out here. And I became the first president of the home owners' association here. And that's interesting because there's nobody around now that was around in those days. So I've become the historic, history, historic institutional history for this place. So. (laughs) But this quarry is something else. This quarry, the story about that, they tried to start it up after the war and it didn't work.

45

They had left a big steam shovel in the bottom of it. And here was this 40 feet of water and you're sitting out in the middle, there was this big steam shovel. So we had to, over time, dismantle the steam shovel.

5 Corrigan: And get it out of there?

Crawford: Get it out of there. Now we have a beautiful tennis courts, and two diving towers and a ball field and that was owned by the developer, Hirst Mendenhall. And Hirst Mendenhall didn't want the liability, so he gave it to the homeowners' association. So that's
10 the beginning of the Quarry Heights Owners' Association. And interestingly enough, the preservation commission of the city had never given a homeowners' association a historical—

[End Track 38. Begin Track 39.]

15

Corrigan: —back and I'm going to turn it back on again. So brief break there just to change the tape there. So you were telling me about, you were just kind of finishing up talking about the homeowners' association just won an award this past year.

20 Crawford: Yeah.

Corrigan: It was the first time that's happened—

Crawford: It was interesting. I went down to the Tiger Hotel. And the homeowners' association here has a song, and it's to the tune of "My Maryland." And the homeowners, I'm not an officer now, but they invited me down to receive the award, being the first
25 president. And I said, "Well where's the song?" And somebody handed me the song. I sang it for them. (laughs) They said "we've never had anybody," and I did a pretty good job. "My Maryland's" very easy to sing to, you know. (laughs)

30

Corrigan: So you sang "My Maryland."

Crawford: Uh uh. "My Maryland" but with the words for the Quarry Heights. And it was long. Two pages of poetry. (laughs) But anyway. So yeah, I was really very active in, I was
35 on the board of the Methodist Church. And I was just on lots of stuff. I was in the Cub Scout program and active in the Grant School activities. My wife was chairman of the PTA for the city. So she got much involved in things. She was a member of—I didn't work, you know what was really funny. I had an appointment to the university. They called it research associate. You've maybe seen those. Well each year I would, Bob Camels and Tom
40 Basket(??), they had classes over there and they would invite me over for guest lecturing. And I really enjoyed this. And they said, "We've got to make this official." But he said, "But there's no money." So for ten years or more, longer than that, I had this beautiful, official paper saying I was a research associate. But I didn't expect money. I just enjoyed doing it. But you know what, the only thing that ever got me? They did let me get football tickets for
45 staff price, which was a few dollars cheaper. (laughs) I still have them.

Corrigan: Oh, you still have season tickets?

Crawford: I still have them.

5 Corrigan: Okay. How long have you had season tickets?

Crawford: Oh, since the '50s.

10 Corrigan: Decades. Okay. Well you said when you were paying 50 cents just to get down here to hitchhike, I knew you were a fan.

Crawford: That was high school.

15 Corrigan: Yeah. That's why I knew you were a fan for—

Crawford: Okay. I want to tell you. This is between us. Of course we're on tape now.

Corrigan: Do you want me to shut it off?

20 Crawford: No, that's all right. You remember the name of Charles Gehrke in town? The guy that did the analysis of the moon rocks for the moon flights?

Corrigan: Okay.

25 Crawford: You know, they lived next door to me 50 years. And we were great friends. Where am I headed with this? Oh, his boy grew up with my boys. This boy now is in Des Moines, Iowa, is an orthopedic surgeon. He still buys big time tickets for the basketball. You know what they cost apiece. You know—

30 Corrigan: Yeah, they're expensive.

35 Crawford: They're \$500 plus an additional deal. He still buys those tickets just because he wants to help the program. Every other year he gives us the tickets. But this year he said, "Bill, you write me a thousand dollar check and I'll send you the two tickets." I'm in the process of writing, for two tickets this year, my boy and I will be going. We've been going to the basketball games forever. Now we're going to be seeing the new coach. (laughs)

Corrigan: Yes. Yes.

40 Crawford: But anyway, John has to put, he has to put tremendous money beside the tickets to get these seats. So I just talked to him yesterday.

Corrigan: So that will be exciting.

45 Crawford: Yeah.

Corrigan: Basketball season is just around the corner.

Crawford: Just around the corner. So here I am, climbing up those steps, you know. (laughs) I used to go to, you know Hearnese, you know, those steps over there. (laughs) Anyway.

5

Corrigan: Yeah. There's a lot of steps there. That's usually never easy.

Crawford: You know, historically you know, they used to call that Hearnese Multipurpose, you remember how they took off that multipurpose? It used to be the Hearnese Multipurpose Arena. And it's the only way they could get that thing to the legislature is put "multipurpose" on it. They wanted to be sure it wasn't going to be just used for basketball. So they put "multipurpose" on it. Now they've taken that off and they just call it Hearnese. Not anything. (laughs) You know, that was before your time here.

15 Corrigan: Yeah.

Crawford: But I need—

[End Track 39. Begin Track 40.]

20

Crawford: —I want to tell you that. The faculty of the university was very much against that arena. Because they wanted money. If the governor was going to find money to build an arena, he could give them salaries. But he chose the arena. And the legislature would not put it in the budget. Hearnese wrote the price for the Hearnese Arena into the budget himself. And didn't ask anybody. And built it. That's the reason it's called Hearnese.

25

Corrigan: Warren Hearnese. He was the governor at the time.

Crawford: He did it himself. He didn't get any help from anybody. He wrote it in himself. And that bluebird picture up there is signed by Warren Hearnese and Nelson Rockefeller. That was an award I got a number of years ago by a fellow in Quincy, Illinois, who was a famous guy. And that picture is something else. I was a good friend of his so he got me that fancy picture. And got Hearnese's signature on it and Nelson Rockefeller's signature on it. So there it is hanging up there. (laughs) So anyway, so I've got a little touch with Warren Hearnese.

35

Corrigan: Okay. Well that's all right. So, well I think we've covered a lot today.

Crawford: Yeah. I know.

40 Corrigan: We've covered a lot. And I really appreciate you taking your whole afternoon—

Crawford: I'm a multipurpose guy, as you can see.

45 Corrigan: Like I said, I did a lot of research and I wanted to cover a lot of things. And I knew if I covered things that other people had covered, I would never get through anything.

So I was trying to cover things that hadn't been. But I really appreciate you giving me the afternoon to do this.

5 Crawford: It's fun. I hope you've enjoyed it.

Corrigan: Oh, yeah. No, it's been great. So I'm going to go ahead and shut off the recorder now unless there's something else you want to say. Ok.

10 **[End Interview.]**