

An Interview with
Allan Hoover

at his home in
Pleasant Hill, Missouri

13 September 2012

interviewed by Jeff Corrigan



Oral History Program
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PREFACE

Allan Hoover was born in Cass County, Missouri on November 1, 1955, and spent much of his life in Pleasant Hill. In the interview, Hoover recounts the many adventures he had growing up on family farms near Pleasant Hill. He also discusses his views on hunter education. Upon graduating from Pleasant Hill High School, he enrolled at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa. An avid hunter, Hoover began teaching volunteer hunter education courses for the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1998. Seeking to improve the hands-on components of firearm and bow hunting courses, Hoover helped found the Missouri Hunting Heritage Foundation in 2006. Soon after, he served as the organization's Executive Director. Allan Hoover passed away in December 2012.

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 Allan Hoover passed away before this transcript was finished, so he was not able to review it or clarify any points.**

Narrator: Allan Hoover
Interviewer: Jeff Corrigan
Date: September 13, 2012
Transcribed by: Teresa Bergen

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[Begin Track 1. Begin Interview.]

10 Jeff Corrigan: This is Jeff Corrigan, oral historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri. And I'm in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, at the home of Mr. Allan Hoover today. Today's date is Thursday, September 13, 2012. Mr. Hoover is being interviewed today for the first time for the Missouri Environmental Oral History Project. Let's begin. Could you start off by telling me when and where you were born?

15

Allan Hoover: Not too far from here, actually, in the late fall of 1955. A little hospital right down the road here in Harrisonville to be precise. But this has been home for me my entire life, basically.

20 Corrigan: And Harrisonville is just a couple of miles south, correct?

Hoover: Yeah. Five, six miles.

25 Corrigan: Okay. So in between Pleasant Hill and Harrisonville, you've been here your whole life?

Hoover: Yes.

30 Corrigan: Okay. Did you have any siblings?

Hoover: I have two younger sisters. One of them is deceased. Do still have one younger sister living. My parents, my father, is deceased. My mother is still alive.

35 Corrigan: And what are their names?

Hoover: Harry and Jean Hoover were my parents. My younger sisters were Connie and Twila. Connie is now deceased.

40 Corrigan: And Twila?

Hoover: Twila, uh-uh, is the youngest one.

Corrigan: Is that T-w-

45 Hoover: i-l-a.

Corrigan: Okay. That's a unique name. What did your parents do for a living?

5 Hoover: My father worked at what was called Bendix back then. It went from Bendix to Allied Signal to today I think its Honeywell. Major non-nuclear plant in the Kansas City area. Made components for nuclear weapons. But he and many folks in this area that had town jobs worked up there at Bendix. And my mother worked at a bank in Harrisonville for a number of years.

10 Corrigan: And how far away is that factory that he worked at?

Hoover: Southeast part of Kansas City. Probably thirty-five miles from here. North and west.

15 Corrigan: Oh, okay. And then a bank in Harrisonville?

Hoover: Uh huh. We lived in Pleasant Hill at the time.

Corrigan: Oh, did you.

20 Hoover: When I was born, we lived right here in this country, in this area, just about a mile over the hill. But then by the time I was seven, my folks moved to town and stayed there through the entire time I was in school.

25 Corrigan: Okay. So you went to elementary and high school in Pleasant Hill?

Hoover: I did, yes. One year of college at Graceland College up in Lamoni, Iowa.

Corrigan: I'm sorry. What was that one again?

30 Hoover: Graceland College.

Corrigan: Graceland. Okay.

35 Hoover: It's Graceland University nowadays. But small college, up in Lamoni, Iowa, just across the Iowa line.

Corrigan: Now, Pleasant Hill. Is it called the Pleasant Hill Elementary School? Or did it have a name?

40 Hoover: The town has grown, the community has grown so much now that there are several schools and I think they have different names. But back then it was Pleasant Hill Elementary and Pleasant Hill High School.

45 Corrigan: (laughs) Okay. Well back then, how big was your class?

Hoover: I think our graduating class was in the low nineties. Less than a hundred, I believe.

Corrigan: Okay. Was that pretty much consistent the whole way through?

Hoover: Pretty much, yeah.

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Corrigan: And did you go to school with mainly the same people throughout that whole time?

10 Hoover: Yes. Here in this community, we have smaller, even smaller rural towns that may have an elementary but not a high school. So, for example, Strasburg to the east, Kingsville, East Lynne, some of these communities around, their students would only come to Pleasant Hill once they got into high school. But a lot of the students that I graduated with, I went from kindergarten all the way through.

15 Corrigan: So it was a consolidated district then.

Hoover: Yeah.

20 Corrigan: Okay. And that's common in a lot of places. They go to a larger high school. So Pleasant Hill, is that the larger community around here?

25 Hoover: No, actually, Harrisonville is larger than Pleasant Hill. It's the county seat of Cass County. I don't like to admit that in an interview. But yes, Harrisonville is the larger community.

Corrigan: Okay. And what year did you graduate high school?

Hoover: Nineteen seventy-three.

30 Corrigan: Nineteen seventy-three. Now did you spend a lot of time outdoors when you were a kid?

35 Hoover: I did. With both of my parents working, I spent summers and weekends and so forth on my uncle's farms, right here. In fact, this acreage that I live on is a part of my uncle's farm, my grandfather's farm before that. And so as a kid, I stomped these field rows and hedge rows and so forth. Even as a little bitty boy, nine, ten years old, I was operating some pretty big farm equipment, farming the fields out here. Because my older cousins babysat me. So I was another farmhand, just the same was the cousins, the boy cousins that were my

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[End Track 1. Begin Track 2.]

45 Hoover: Between that and my grandfather lived over on the creek bottom east of here. He was an old muleskinner and always had horses. I was either on the farm as another hand, taking care of the pigs and the cows and the crops, or else I was at my grandfather's place,

jumping on the back of an old pony and just however far down through the creek bottom it would take us, that's where we'd wind up spending the day.

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Corrigan: Okay. How big of a farm are we talking about?

Hoover: My mother's brothers farmed together. There were three of them. And at one time, they were about the largest farming operation in the county. I don't remember exact figures, but it was probably something close to two thousand acres of crop ground between what they owned and rented. They had a feeder pig to finish business that was the largest around. They would routinely go cow calf operation of several hundred head.

Corrigan: Was that confinement hog farming or—

15
Hoover: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Okay.

Hoover: Yeah, they would buy the feeder pigs and keep them in the confinement houses, and then sell them at weaned age.

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Corrigan: So that was three uncles you had here. So this is where we're at right now, is a part of that original farm?

Hoover: It was a part of my mother's father's farm.

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Corrigan: Oh, your grandfather's farm.

Hoover: And by the time he got to the point that he couldn't farm it, well then his sons farmed his land. And this acreage that I live on right now was a part of the grandfather's farm that my uncles farmed.

Corrigan: Okay. And was the farm corn, soybeans, pasture? Was it feeder lot, or you said a couple hundred cattle, or was it head?

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Hoover: No, it was pasture. They didn't have a feed lot like you think of with the big operations. But they would have forty or sixty head at this farm, and they'd have fifty or sixty head at that farm, and that type of thing. They had, their ground wasn't continuous around here. They had little farms in outlying areas as well.

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Corrigan: Okay. So you said, you mentioned that you had spent time, so you were riding a mule or pony, is that correct?

Hoover: Oh, yeah. My father's father had me riding a horse about as soon as I could walk, probably.

45
Corrigan: And were they near here, too?

Hoover: Yes. Within riding distance of here. That used to be something that my wife and our children enjoyed, was to saddle up and go ride over to Grandpa's place. But he lived east of here about, oh, about seven, eight miles, over on the creek bottom, towards Strasburg.

5

Corrigan: Okay.

Hoover: Even when I was a kid in town, it was just a five-minute drive out to Grandpa's house. They'd drop me off and I'd jump on a horse and be gone all day. Or it was a five-minute drive another direction to the uncle's house that I stayed. And they'd drop me off and I'd climb on a tractor and go feed the hogs or cows or mow hay or whatever.

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Corrigan: And you mentioned your grandpa was a muleskinner?

Hoover: It's an affectionate term. Anybody that raises, breaks, trains teams, that's just kind of what I lump them into the old muleskinner category. But he was fairly well known for a simple man in the area for his abilities with a horse. Despite health issues that kept him from being, you know, very active all the time. But he had a way with horses. He had a deep passion for them and always had them around.

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Corrigan: Now in the '50s, when you were growing up, people were still using horses and mules for certain things. But not really, a lot of people had already switched over to tractors and things. Were mostly there for pleasure?

Hoover: Basically pleasure, Jeff, by my lifetime. Well you know, in your Amish communities and so forth, that still exists today. But around these parts, I don't recall anyone that farmed by necessity.

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Corrigan: It would have been late in the '50s. It probably would have finished in the '30s or '40s, the end of it.

Hoover: So yeah, I think everyone that I can recall—

Corrigan: Switched over mechanically?

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Hoover: —had combustion engine tractors and so forth by my lifetime.

Corrigan: Now what kind of activities in regards to, when did you start, was there fishing around here that you could do?

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Hoover: We fished in farm ponds and so forth. My family never was much of one to go to the lake like a lot of folks do today. I did have the very good circumstance, close family friends, their ancestry came from west central Minnesota. And they had a little lake lot and cabin up there. And so my family enjoyed an annual summer vacation fishing on a big lake in Minnesota. But primarily it was either that trip or once in a while go wet a line in a farm pond was about all the fishing I ever did.

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Corrigan: Okay. And what's your first introduction you can remember to hunting?

Hoover: You know, my family came into hunting kind of late, actually.

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[End Track 2. Begin Track 3.]

Hoover: I don't recall my grandparents ever hunting, or talking about it. To my knowledge, my father was a young adult before he started hunting. And you know, just by circumstance or whatever, mentoring youth wasn't a big priority at that time. I can remember at one single rabbit hunt when I was probably eight or nine years old, that my mother and father and I, and an aunt and uncle and a cousin my age, the six of us went out to carrying firearms, walking some of Grandpa's fields and pastures, looking for rabbit. And then when I was about thirteen, probably, well, maybe about that same eight or nine year-old, I was allowed to go on a deer hunt with my father and his friends and my uncles and so forth, just as a kid tagging along. But about thirteen years old was the first time I ever went on an actual deer hunt. A few times, younger than that, just be allowed to take my little .22, or my little Mossberg bolt-action shotgun, you know. And when I was at Grandpa's out in the woods, I'd carry it around out in the woods. But didn't really have much of a formal introduction to hunting and didn't start very early, compared to what a lot of youth do today.

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Corrigan: Okay. And what primarily, was it deer and rabbits? Is that primarily what people were hunting back then?

Hoover: Well you know, as a young kid, we'd kind of walk through the woods. And quite frankly, whatever we saw. Squirrel, rabbit. You know, if it was a quail. If there happened to be ducks on the farm pond when we snuck over the dam. But in my family, most of their focus was on deer. In this part of the country, this part of the state, when I was a kid, I don't recall seeing a turkey in my youth here. When I got to be upper teens, young adult age, and was hunting in south Missouri, was when I first saw a turkey. But today, that's all changed.

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Corrigan: Yeah, yeah. But no, that's good to know. Back then, that's the kind of stuff I like to hear. Do you remember, I mean, there seems to be on my trip here a lot of trees, a lot of woods. Were deer everywhere quite prevalent when you were a kid, or no?

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Hoover: No. Nothing like today. There were deer. You could go out, walk the woods on a squirrel hunt and maybe see a couple of deer, if you were lucky, run by. So even when I was, by the early to mid '60s, when I was up stomping around in the woods, there were some deer. But as I mentioned, I don't recall ever seeing a turkey back in those days here.

40

Corrigan: Okay. No turkeys, deer, quail, you said, squirrels.

Hoover: Squirrel, rabbit, quail. In fact, there used to be several quail when I was a youth. Compared to today, there were a lot more quail then than there are today.

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Corrigan: Is that just because of habitat loss?

Hoover: One hundred percent. Yes.

5 Corrigan: Now this would have been probably a lot more rural area when you were growing up.

Hoover: Oh, absolutely.

10 Corrigan: When has this, now it seems when I came here today, there's been a lot of growth. And it seems like a lot of fairly new homes. And I'm guessing in the last ten or twenty years. But is that really when it's been built up around here?

15 Hoover: I'll give you a perspective. This gravel road that we live on here is two miles from the highway to where it T's down there at the other end of the road. When I was a kid, and this was my grandfather's farm, there was a house on each end of the road. We'd been at this location since 1978. And in 1978, we were the fifth house on this road. And I think today there are, I've lost track. It's perhaps fourteen on this same two-mile stretch. And when I was a kid, it was that way throughout the county. You could drive for a couple three miles on some of these gravel roads, and it would just be farm fields on either side. Wooded draws and small timber lots and that type of thing. And today, there's just houses dotted everywhere. Pleasant Hill has almost tripled in size from when I was a kid. And predominantly, I would say, in the last twelve to fifteen years, that growth has really surged. As people had the means and had the ability to get further and further from work, well more folks that worked in Kansas City have migrated out this direction, and so the community has just continued to grow.

25 Corrigan: So as the suburbs grew, Independence, Blue Springs, even Lee's Summit's not terribly—

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

Corrigan: —far away, correct?

35 Hoover: No.

Corrigan: As they all boomed, so did the countryside. More people moving out.

Hoover: Right.

40 Corrigan: Getting a few more acres. Bigger houses. Probably a slightly cheaper tax base than in the city. But really, in the last ten or twelve years, you think there's—

45 Hoover: I would say that was when the largest push began. There'd been more new housing additions in Pleasant Hill in the last ten or twelve years than I could remember in the previous ten or fifteen, perhaps.

Corrigan: Now I mentioned before we started that I was surprised at the number of horse farms that I saw, and people that had horses on their property. Has this always been a horse area, or is that fairly new? Or is that just an observation I just happened to see today?

5 Hoover: I think a lot of that comes with the folks that are moving out here. There's a reason that they want to come out to the country and have five or ten or twenty acres of land. And for a lot of those people, that reason is we'd like to have a horse or something of that nature.

Corrigan: So then going back a little bit, so deer hunt first at thirteen. Did you get a deer?

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Hoover: (laughs) I actually shot two deer before my father did. (laughter) I went on my first deer hunt at the age of thirteen. My second deer hunt at roughly about the age of sixteen. And I don't recall that I have missed a beat since.

15 Corrigan: But two that first time around, that's good.

Hoover: Well, not two the first year.

Corrigan: No, no, no. Yeah.

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Hoover: But, yeah. Within my first three deer hunts, I harvested two deer. My father, well, he's deceased now, so I can tell this on him. I think he hunted twelve or thirteen straight years before he ever saw a deer.

25 Corrigan: Really?

Hoover: While he was hunting. And then was able to shoot one.

Corrigan: Because he was probably born in—

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Hoover: The mid '30s.

Corrigan: The mid '30s, okay.

35 Hoover: My father was twenty years older than I am.

Corrigan: Okay. And deer were even more scarce back then.

40 Hoover: Right. I have the good fortune of, in my lifetime, Missouri's dark days for wildlife were already behind us and restoration and so forth, habitat work, was well on its way. So that's the reason we had deer here in my lifetime. And the reason the turkey was shortly behind it. We didn't have very long—by the time I was a young adult, we started seeing turkey in our wood lots and so forth, even in this part of the country. And today, they're thick as grass.

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Corrigan: So ten to twelve years before he actually saw a deer.

Hoover: I think it was his eleventh, I believe it was his eleventh deer hunting season—

Corrigan: Wow.

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Hoover: Yeah, before. Now I need to clarify, perhaps. Saw a deer while he was hunting.

Corrigan: Yeah, yeah.

10

Hoover: While he was actually on a hunt. And in fact, I think he actually shot the first deer that he saw while hunting.

Corrigan: Okay.

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Hoover: To get his first.

Corrigan: Now do you remember that first one quite well?

20

Hoover: Oh, yeah. (laughs) Yeah, I do. We probably won't talk about that story.

Corrigan: So being around a farm, at least a lot, so you would have spent a lot of time outside.

25

Hoover: Oh, yeah.

Corrigan: And chores, you said, on the farm. Feeding pigs. Anything that needed to be done, you and your cousins would be working on?

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Hoover: My three uncles, never at any time do I recall they ever had more than one hired hand. And that was very, very infrequent. So most, well, all of the farming work was accomplished by those three brothers and their sons. There were two other cousins my age, there were two older cousins that were seven and nine years older than we were. We were basically the farmhands for my uncles. And I loved it. I mean, what ten year-old kid that lives in town wouldn't enjoy climbing on a 1950 Oliver with a 16-foot disc and going to the fields by himself. And then having Aunt June bring lunch to him and check on him. I mean, you're in tall cotton when you're a ten year-old kid, and you've got that kind of equipment and that kind of responsibility and you're trusted with it. That's awesome.

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Corrigan: Now back then, did your school year run all the way through May? Or did it end earlier in April? Were you—

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Hoover: I don't recall that we ever went to school between the holidays, if you will. School was always over before Memorial Day, and it never started until after Labor Day, back in those days. The one thing I do remember was August 15th. Every year, August 15th. That's when three a day football practice started. And we had two or three weeks of that before we ever started school.

Corrigan: Okay. So you would miss the planting and the harvest during the week—

[End Track 4. Begin Track 5.]

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Corrigan: —while you'd be in school. But I assume then every weekend you were out—

10 Hoover: And bear in mind, please, I was an insignificant cog in the operation. But yeah, one of the big things that we would do when I was a kid that really stands out in my mind is come haying season. The tractors that they had had nice, big wrap over fenders. And so there was an older cousin or one of the uncles driving the tractor with the old Sycamore mowers that they had back in those days. And there was always one of us younger cousins sitting on the fender. And as you'd go around and around that field, the unmowed hay would get narrower and narrower, all the rabbits would bunch up in it.

15

Corrigan: Okay.

20 Hoover: And as the rabbits would start popping out, the tractor operator would stop that tractor as quickly as possible and we would both bail off, and we would run down that rabbit and boot it in the hind end as high up in the air as we could boot it in midstride. And when it hit the ground, it would be stunned long enough, we'd walk over and grab it. And we would bring home several rabbits out of the hay field that way. Many people don't believe that you can run down a rabbit. But you get two or three of your little cousins and a couple of uncles out there. We'd actually chase down rabbit.

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Corrigan: So no gun. You'd chase them down.

30 Hoover: We absolutely would chase it down and kick it in the rear end in midstride. And when it hit the ground, it would be stunned long enough that you could walk over and pick it up.

Corrigan: So as you went, because you work in a hay field out, work your way in, they would just keep moving in?

35 Hoover: Right. Yeah. And when it got narrow enough, they had no more place to hide, no more tall grass to hide in. So they'd start taking off out across the open, mowed ground. You have to bear in mind that back in those days, we weren't hunting. We didn't pay attention to a season, admittedly. We saw a rabbit, we caught a rabbit and we ate it. We took it home and Aunt June fixed it for our lunch the next day with a nice big pot of rice. So. (laughs)

40

Corrigan: Would it be like a rabbit stew?

45 Hoover: Fried rabbit, rabbit stew. It was all good. Even before I was really a hunter, I was a consumer. (laughter)

Corrigan: That's good to know. Okay. So, okay. And you would get, you said, how many did you say, a couple, each time you'd go do hay, a couple at a time?

Hoover: I can remember sometimes we'd bring back six or seven.

5

Corrigan: Okay. Were these well fed rabbits?

Hoover: Yeah. They were.

10 Corrigan: Okay, good. So you said you did your second deer hunt at sixteen, in high school. So, okay. And then you said, how far after that was it, that you basically said you'd been doing it ever since?

15 Hoover: I don't think I missed a year after that year when I was sixteen. That year that I hunted when I was sixteen, an older cousin and I went off just the two of us on a public land hunt down around what is now Truman Lake. As a seventeen year-old, I was allowed, if you will, to actually join my father and my uncle and their friends on a deer hunt. The fall that I was eighteen years old, let's see, yeah. I got married in October the year I was eighteen years old. And I went deer hunting that fall as a newlywed in November.

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Corrigan: So that would have been October of—

Hoover: Of '74.

25 Corrigan: Of '74, okay.

Hoover: Yeah. I was fairly young. I went through high school, a year of college and got married, and was still eighteen.

30 Corrigan: Okay. Oh, that's right. Because you had said Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa.

35 Hoover: If the chronological order of things isn't matching up, that's your explanation. But yeah, I went deer hunting every year from then on. Then as I got older, I went on my first one and only, chance of a lifetime, to go out west. Went on an antelope hunt in Wyoming and wound up going back for eighteen straight years. Then I followed that up with hunting the mountains in Colorado for elk. But throughout it all, I was, I never missed a year in Missouri for deer hunting.

40 Corrigan: Would you always go to the same places? Or did you travel around? Or did you primarily stick in this area? Where were you going on all these trips?

45 Hoover: Here in Missouri, we had a couple of different, they were private lands that we gained access to. And we would hunt that location until we lost access to it, and then we'd find another one. Then in the late '80s, I purchased a little piece of timber ground in north Missouri. Very close to the Iowa line. And so by the late '80s, all of my hunting was either here at home—

[End Track 5. Begin Track 6.]

5 Hoover: —or up there in north Missouri. And as I mentioned, I've lived at this location since '78. So from '78 on, I hunted right here. I could literally walk out my back door and in five minutes be in a favorite tree stand to hunt deer and turkey with a bow and that type of thing. Nowadays, nearly all of my hunting is confined to our north Missouri location. I don't hunt here at home much, I don't travel out of state anymore, and that type of thing.

10 Corrigan: So you still have that piece up there, and still go up there hunting each year.

Hoover: Yeah.

15 Corrigan: Is that the only thing you hunt up there is deer? Or do you hunt other seasons?

Hoover: Deer and turkey and small game. Yeah, we hunt squirrel around the place. There are a few rabbits, but not really huntable numbers. Not very far from us, they have pheasant. But not there on our place. We're basically kind of a rolling hills and wood lot where we are. Small timber tracks.

20 Corrigan: Okay.

25 Hoover: But going up there to hunt deer, be it with center fire archery, muzzle loader, you know, all of the above, that's really about all I have the time to do in the fall. And not very much time for it, at that. I try to get up in the spring to do some shotgun turkey hunting. But what I'm involved with today consumes most of the time, and I don't have a lot of time for it. But that's, you know, I've been fortunate enough in my lifetime of hunting here in Missouri that I could pretty much know where I was going to go, year after year.

30 Corrigan: Were these initial, you said you'd make a relationship. Was this, or your uncles, these spots you would go to, these private lands, were these other farmers that had these lands, that you would gain access to? Or were they friends, relatives?

35 Hoover: One of the early ones in south Missouri, as I mentioned, I shouldn't say south Missouri, I guess, because most people wouldn't consider it that far south. But in the Truman Lake area, what is Truman Lake now, one of those was a doctor that lived in the city that bought a piece of ground as an investment property. And then we found out who owned it and gained access to it. And he had a few hundred acres of timber in and around some old pits, old pit mines down there. And we probably hunted down there for oh, ten years, maybe, 40 perhaps. And then after that, we moved to another location that my wife's father owned a piece of property that actually butted up to some core ground around the lake. The lake was in by then. So we hunted there for a few years. And then we found this place up in north Missouri, and been up there ever since.

45 Corrigan: I'm just wondering for people who, say, didn't have property. People who aren't attached to a farm or farmers, were there a lot of people, looking back over the decades, were

there a lot of people, was it easy to gain access to a place to hunt if you, you know, it wasn't your uncle, your grandpa, your father's property? I'm just curious. Was there a lot of hunters who—well, I'm just curious about access. Was there a lot?

5 Hoover: Sure. Yes. The simple answer is yes. When I was a youth and a young adult, it was not at all uncommon that you could go knock on a total stranger's door and ask for permission and be given permission to hunt. Much more access then than there is today. I don't envy people today that don't have that connection to a landowner.

10 Corrigan: Okay. That's what I was curious about. So much easier back then. Today, much harder.

Hoover: Difference in night and day, I would say. Very drastic difference. There are still some individuals around that will allow a stranger to knock on their door and let them go
15 hunt. But far fewer than what there used to be.

Corrigan: And what about today in general? Are people charging for this access? Versus back then? Or was it charge then, too?

20 Hoover: I think that might be a significant component of it. When landowners found—and I discovered this in my time of hunting out west—when landowners found that they would actually make more money charging or collecting an access fee or a trespass fee, as a lot of folks call it, than what they could make actually farming the land, then it became very
25 difficult to get free access to it. And there are some other components, I think, that came into it with liability and abuse of the privileges, and that type of thing. But yeah, I think that would have to be considered a significant factor.

Corrigan: I mean, I can see liability. I've heard people say that before. You're having people come onto your property with guns. Accidents can happen, whether you, you know, are you
30 liable or not—

[End Track 6. Begin Track 7.]

Corrigan: —whether somebody's willing to take that risk. Do you have any sense of—and it
35 doesn't have to be with your own experience—but what someone might have paid early on to gain some access with a local farm? I mean, was it a nominal fee versus? You're mentioning now where some farmers could make a significant amount of money. Is it just the individual's willingness to pay a certain amount? Does it vary widely?

40 Hoover: I could give, perhaps, a couple of perspectives. The first time I went out west, the landowner that we hunted on, had a donation, if you will. A hunter that came from Washington, perhaps, would bring him a bushel of apples. A hunter that came from Louisiana might bring some catfish filet. If you wanted to give him a twenty dollar bill, he'd
45 take a twenty dollar bill. This past year, our organization had the opportunity to take youth and their parent on an antelope hunt in Wyoming. And the landowner that gave us that hunt typically would charge 200 dollars apiece for access to hunt his property.

Corrigan: Per person.

5 Hoover: Per person. That's just to allow them onto his property, 200 dollars. Here in Missouri, about the first lease arrangements that I ever heard of when I was a young man, people would pay a dollar an acre. And if you leased a 500-acre tract of ground and it cost you 500 dollars to gain access for the year and you got ten hunting buddies together, it only cost you fifty dollars apiece to have a place to hunt. Today, I don't know what they might be getting. I just haven't even heard.

10

Corrigan: Okay. I was just curious. But that's a good range there.

Hoover: Yeah.

15 Corrigan: So you would lease it per acre. Nominal fee. Okay. That's interesting. But 200 dollars in not the recent past per person just to gain access. And this is all in the assumption that it doesn't matter whether you get something or not. This is just, this is your 200 dollar trespassing fee for access.

20 Hoover: Correct. You have to get yourself to the farm, you have to buy your tags, you have to do all that on your own.

Corrigan: Yeah.

25 Hoover: And then once you get there, for the privilege of going through the gate, it cost you another 200 dollars.

Corrigan: And was that in Wyoming?

30 Hoover: Yes.

Corrigan: Okay, okay. That's what I thought.

35 Hoover: So that has to be a factor, I would think, in how difficult it is to get permission to hunt free. If people are willing to pay that. And then also, I've heard a lot of people complain about, I don't have any firsthand experience, but these large hunting clubs would gobble up all the land they could. They would purchase leases on all the land they could. So if they were willing to pay that dollar an acre for exclusive rights to hunt, that meant that people couldn't just go knock on that landowner's door and gain access to it anymore.

40

Corrigan: And what about public lands in Missouri? You know, there's different, its regulated different seasons, and you could hunt, fish and that, in different seasons, whether it be bow or shotgun season or that. But would people, I'm thinking back when you were young, very young, did people really care whether they were on public lands or not? I mean, 45 would people just go into, whether they were supposed to be there or not? I mean, do you

think there was a, are people, I guess what I'm asking is are people more conscious of seasons and permits and all the regulations that are out there now versus then?

5 Hoover: My personal sense is yes, they are more conscious today. And I would credit the
hunter education programs largely with that. I know from the perspective of my own family,
there wasn't a whole lot of attention paid. Yes, they would buy a tag. But over and above
that, there wasn't a whole lot of attention paid to who owned the property on the other side of
the fence, whether that was in season or not, whether it was okay for you to shoot an animal
10 and someone else's tag to go on it, those types of things. And one of the reasons, quite
frankly, that we looked for our own property as opposed to hunting next to the public ground,
out around the lakes, was that as we used to refer to it, everybody that come to the lake in the
summer with their boat, came back with an orange vest and a 30.06 in the fall. And so you
had a great number of people running around on this public land down there. And they
weren't all that safe. And that was about the time that my children started hunting with me.
15 And I just wanted a safer environment to introduce them to the sport. But today—

[End Track 7. Begin Track 8.]

20 Hoover: —I don't hunt public ground that much myself, but I do conduct hunts with our
organization on public ground. And what I see today is a more knowledgeable and more
informed, more law abiding, I think, clientele on that, if you will. And I think probably it has
to do with so many years of educating young folks and others as they come through the
hunter education class that they do need to watch for these various things. I believe I'd give
credit that way.

25 Corrigan: So education has been a major key factor.

Hoover: I think so.

30 Corrigan: And that's, not just in hunting, but even with frustration and conservation, I think
one of the biggest battles probably with Conservation Federation and the Department of
Conservation is educating people about public lands. About their own lands, conservation
having, you know, we don't have as many deer. I mean, we have plenty of deer now. There's
a reason for that. Education, educating people or stocking ponds or adding filter strips to
35 fields to help prevent chemicals going into streams and that. That there's been a lot more
efforts in not just educating landowners, but also people. So you think, so it's come a long
way in your tenure that you've seen people, education in hunting and probably in the way
that people treat their land. And then safety, too? I guess that is something I want to hit on.
When did safety really start being discussed a lot more with people and hunters, and even
40 with the organization you're involved with?

Hoover: From my personal perspective, when I started hunting on my own, there were
certain things that my family always did that just didn't make sense to me. And so I looked
for a different, and what I thought was a better, way. It was when I went as a young adult, my
45 first trip to Colorado, that I needed hunter education certification before I could purchase a
license out there. And so I had to take a hunter ed. class here in Missouri for the first time.

Corrigan: And when was that? Roughly.

5 Hoover: Ninety-eight, ninety-seven. Late '90s was when I first took a hunter education class.
And you know, I was grandfathered in in the state of Missouri. I didn't need it. I'd been
10 hunting since I was a teenager and before, and couldn't imagine that it had any benefit to me.
Was forced to sit through the hunter ed. class to be able to purchase the non-resident tag. And
in doing it, discovered that there were a lot of things that I had in common with what was
being taught there. A lot of the things that I was looking for to do differently than what I was
15 brought up in as a hunter were being discussed there. And this was something that was kind
of down my alley, it was kind of near and dear to my heart. And it also, about the same time
that my children had already gone through my training with them, if you will, as a parent.
And I needed somebody else to pass it on to. My grandchildren weren't around yet. So it just
kind of seemed to be a natural move towards that. That's what got me involved in them.
20 That's what really piqued my awareness of the need for safety and the role that it plays and
that type of thing, and kind of launched me on the path that I'm on today.

Corrigan: And what kind of, you say a class. Give me a perspective. Is this a one-day, eight-
hour class? Is this a three times? What kind of education is, you say a class, and that means
20 so many things to different people. What kind of class is this?

Hoover: The hunter ed. class that I attended was typical in the Kansas City region of the day.
And has remained typical up until just very recently. A group of us were packed into a room
on very, very hard little metal folding chairs. And we sat there for 10 hours listening to one
25 person regurgitate what was in a manual. That's pretty stark account of it. But that's basically
what I perceived it as. Hunter education is coming a long ways from that today.

Corrigan: So there was nothing, it was not a hands-on class.

30 Hoover: No.

Corrigan: So literally, manual. That's what I'm curious to know. So that was even in the late
'90s.

35 Hoover: I think that's the way hunter education started out, unfortunately, in most instances.
Now there are pockets, there are individuals that do differently and do better. But in general,
I think hunter education in the state of Missouri and elsewhere, that's basically what you get.
Today we are doing some things that go well beyond that.

40 **[End Track 8. Begin Track 9.]**

Corrigan: Okay. So let's start talking about some of those things. Do you want to start
talking about, maybe starting with kind of what you're doing now? Or maybe you don't want
to start there, but we could start there. So you're the executive director of the Missouri
45 Heritage Federation.

Hoover: Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation.

Corrigan: Yes. Sorry. That started about 2006, is that correct?

5 Hoover: Yeah. I can give you a very brief rundown—

Corrigan: Yeah, please.

Hoover: —beginning with that first hunter ed. class that I attended in '98.

10

Corrigan: So, yeah. Give me from '98 to 2006, where this started. That would be great.

Hoover: I attended as a student. I was an adult, but I attended as a student the hunter ed. certification class in February. I attended an instructor training course in March. And I taught my first hunter ed. class in April of that year. And have been teaching hunter education as a volunteer instructor for the Missouri Department of Conservation ever since. Through the course of that, being involved with hunter ed., that basically is the blame, my wife might refer to it as, for my involvement in basically everything that I'm involved with today. It all started when I became a volunteer hunter ed. instructor. Specifically to the Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation. We had been, "we" being volunteer instructors, had been teaching hunter ed. classes for a number of years. We put our little spin on that bland, boring sit for 10 hours and be lectured format to try and improve it and make more out of it. And we kept hearing all of these accounts of the number, a significant number of students that go through hunter ed. each year, and never progress beyond that. They never shoot, they never go hunting, they never purchase a license. They took the hunter ed. class with high expectations, but they had no one to take them, on one to mentor them beyond that.

15

20

25

Corrigan: Okay.

30

Hoover: And that was a motivation to us. So by the spring of 2006, a small handful, literally there were six of us volunteer hunter education instructors that got together and said, we'd like to try to do something more than just teach the hunter ed. class. And so we began incorporating youth hunts for our hunter ed. students. And then between the spring of 2006 and today, it grew, it evolved, it became what we are today now.

35

Corrigan: Could you describe what is different about this education, as opposed to just sitting there for eight to ten hours, getting regurgitated a manual, what is it that you guys did differently to try to combat that? Not just the kids not being able to move on after that, but just sheer boredom or not getting anything out of it.

40

Hoover: We assembled here what I refer to as the Pleasant Hill crew of hunter ed. instructors. We assembled a very talented and entertaining group of volunteer instructors. We attempted as much as we could within the traditional format to get students up out of their seats. Hands-on demonstration, participation and that type of thing. We've even evolved that further more recently to incorporate the EDOC method of teaching.

45

Corrigan: Which is?

5 Hoover: EDOC stands for explain, demonstrate, observe and then correct or complement, whatever is necessary. But basically we have portions of the manual that we get the entire
10 hunter ed. class up out of their seats. We divide them into groups and they rotate through different learning stations. And at each station, they pick up a different skill, a different, well, I don't really know how to describe it to you, Jeff. But rather than us just stand up there and tell them what they need to know, we show them what they need to know, we demonstrate how they should do it, and then every student in the group repeats that demonstration and explanation back to us.

15 Corrigan: So they're kind of moving around. It breaks them up, but it also keeps them active and involved, and not just sitting there zoning out if they will, or whatnot. And so they're going around to each one of these volunteer instructors, correct?

Hoover: Mm hmm.

20 Corrigan: That section of it. And what are some of those, like give me an idea what is like one of those sections that somebody would learn? And before I forget, too, what is the age group we're talking about here? How old are these kids?

Hoover: To become certified in the state of Missouri, you must be eleven.

25 Corrigan: Eleven. Okay.

Hoover: And then there is no maximum age. I think the oldest student I personally have had in a hunter education class was—

30 **[End Track 9. Begin Track 10.]**

Hoover: —eighty-two.

Corrigan: Oh. So it's not just children.

35 Hoover: No. We have a lot of adults. A lot of adults are in the same situation I was when I first came to it. For example, in the state of Colorado, if you purchase a license and you were born after January of 1949, you must be hunter ed. certified. So in Missouri, if you were born after January 1st of 1967, you must be certified. But that's just in Missouri. Other states have their own criteria. So even in Missouri, if you want to mentor a youth nowadays and you're
40 not on your own property, a lot of times you must be hunter ed. certified. So there's a lot of requirements, a lot of situations where adults need hunter ed. certification to legally do what they want to do. And then a lot of it, too, also is, a lot of it is parents, grandparents, caring adult that attends the hunter ed. Class with a youth. But the 82 year-old gentleman I mentioned, he came by himself. He just didn't have anything to do on a Saturday and he
45 wanted to see what it was about and be with people of like mind. It was a wonderful addition to our class. And very complimentary, I might add, after it was over. He said, "You know,

I've hunted for sixty plus years, and you guys pointed out some things to me that if I knew it, I forgot." So it was nice. But this age group, this wide age group, from eleven years old on up, one of the breakout stations, one of the learning stations, for example, would be how to properly cross a fence. We actually set up a little fence and we go through everything they need to know on how to be safe with a firearm while they're crossing that fence.

Corrigan: It's like a barbed wire fence, or a cattle fence?

Hoover: I have a neighbor out here, actually, that has a vinyl fence company. And he made up a little section of vinyl fence for me that I can take down and tie up and carry in in a little bundle and set it up in a class in about thirty seconds. We incorporate that in the class. So we explain to the students how you, when you approach this fence with a loaded firearm, you need to unload it. You need to get the firearm on the other side of the fence. You need to get yourself on the other side of the fence. You need to reload it, go on about your business, and how to do that safely. And we just don't stand up in front of the class and tell them how to do it. We stand them up in front of a fence and give them a firearm with dummy ammunition, and we have them show us that they know how to do it. Another station might be the various actions of firearms. We'll have a half a dozen firearms with different actions. Another one might be sights. Another one, safeties. We just progress. We've gotten to the point now where there's actually about three hours' worth. In fact, about three hours and 20 minutes' worth of the standard hunter ed. class that those students are up in these breakout sessions.

Corrigan: And this is typically done on a Saturday?

Hoover: The hunter education class in Missouri today we've expanded, I saw "we," the Missouri Department of Conservation has expanded the final exam. It went from twenty-five questions to fifty questions. In order for the state to meet the minimum hour requirement for instruction, minimum time requirement for instruction, you must have ten hours of instruction in a hunter education class. And then you add the length of time that it takes to administer our fifty question class. You can't count your breaks and your lunches and that type of thing. So it's just near-impossible to deliver a single-day hunter ed. class in the state of Missouri anymore. So typically classes would be, for example, Friday evening for three hours, and then come back for eight hours on Saturday and that type of thing. Also in Missouri now they have an online option, where you can do the book portion, the knowledge base portion online, and then come to a field day of about five or six hours.

Corrigan: Okay. Now you said the test went from twenty-five questions to fifty. Recently, or—

Hoover: Well actually, at one time, for example, when my oldest son took hunter education, there was a fifty question test. And then it was, the program was revised and it went down to a twenty-five question test. And then it was revised again, perhaps five years ago, and went back to a fifty question exam.

Corrigan: And is it rotating questions?

Hoover: There is an outside company that publishes the student manuals. And I think they have a database of something in the neighborhood of 400 questions that they can choose from. So, for example, Missouri would say, “We want questions on these topics,” And they would give them two or three examples on each topic. And Missouri would say, “We want this, this, this.” So there are a limited number of questions. Not all 400 questions are possible in the final exam. But typically there is a Test “A” and a Test “B”, and they will have some variations on the questions between the two. And then we just administer them—

[End Track 10. Begin Track 11.]

10

Hoover: —ultimately through the class.

Corrigan: And so taking the test is actually a part of that ten hour, say if it’s Friday night to Saturday, at some point you’re administering a test.

15

Hoover: There is ten hours of instruction plus administering the test to become certified in hunter ed. in Missouri nowadays.

Corrigan: And so that’s anybody born after, you said, 1967?

20

Hoover: There are several exceptions. But yes, the starting point is, if you were born after January first of 1967, at some point in time you’re going to be required to have hunter ed. certification before purchasing a firearms permit. Now we have youth seasons. There are exemptions for youth until they hit their sixteenth birthday. There is an apprentice program in the state of Missouri where even an adult, or someone older than sixteen, can purchase a ten-dollar apprentice license and for two years can hunt without hunter ed. certification, as long as they’re mentored by someone who is hunter ed. certified. So hunter education is not, I am a firm believer that hunter education is not a deterrent to hunting, especially not in the state of Missouri.

25

Corrigan: Okay. I was just going to ask a question exactly related to that was is the cost at all prohibitive to somebody to take this class? Are they expensive?

Hoover: The hunter education class is free.

30

Corrigan: It is. Okay.

Hoover: The Missouri Department of Conservation provides the hunter education class for anyone that takes it in Missouri. The only possibility of incurring an expense for a class, for example, if an instructor schedules a class at a community college and they charge two dollars a head for the use of the room.

35

Corrigan: Okay. So there’s not a barrier for anybody to get that education.

40

Hoover: Not a cost barrier, no. There’s a time barrier, quite frankly. Everyone is so busy nowadays. That’s probably the most difficult part of the whole equation is finding the Friday

evening and all day Saturday, or three evenings in a week or whatever it is just to go attend the class.

5 Corrigan: And how often are these classes held?

Hoover: Here in the four-county Kansas City metropolitan area, there will be something in the neighborhood of 100 of these classes conducted every year.

10 Corrigan: Just in this Kansas City area.

Hoover: In the state of Missouri, it will approach a thousand of these free hunter education classes throughout the state.

15 Corrigan: And what's the level of participation? So you started in 2006—

Hoover: I started teaching hunter ed. in '98.

20 Corrigan: Well, yeah. Oh, I'm sorry. With the, yeah, we'll go back to, so, '98. Are the classes, is the involvement or willingness to be involved, or not willingness, the wanting to be involved, are these classes often filled?

25 Hoover: Unfortunately, we can't dictate when people will attend. So we do on occasion have classes scheduled that are not well-attended. On occasion, there's a class even canceled because not enough people signed up. But on the other end of the spectrum, the week before a season opens up, everybody wants in a class and they procrastinated and couldn't get there. Without knowing, and being able to quote exact numbers, ever since I've been involved with hunter education, something in the neighborhood of 26 to 28,000 students a year go through the program. Every year. Year after year after year.

30 Corrigan: Really.

Hoover: It really has not varied since I've been involved with it. So the demand is there.

35 Corrigan: So late '90s till today, 28,000 people take it each year?

Hoover: Something between 26 and 28,000, I would say. I would say it's definitely north of 25,000 every year.

40 Corrigan: And these are eleven and above.

Hoover: Yes.

45 Corrigan: Okay. Are people outside of Missouri required to, if they want to hunt in Missouri, take this class as well?

Hoover: Yes. And that's where the International Hunter Education Association comes into play in that there is total reciprocity. Every member of the IHEA, as it's called, there is total reciprocity in their hunter education programs. That organization began back, I would guess back in the '50s. It was strictly a North American organization. It was the fifty states of the United States. It has since expanded to incorporate all of Canada. There are members in South America, South Africa, New Zealand, Mexico. So anywhere in any of those member countries or states or provinces that you attain hunter ed. certification, it is valid in all the rest of them. And so, of course, there are certain standards that off these hunter education programs must meet to be eligible—

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[End Track 11. Begin Track 12.]

Hoover: —for that reciprocity.

15

Corrigan: And you're a lifetime member in that organization, correct?

Hoover: I am. Back in 2005, I was volunteered by the state hunter education coordinator at the time to seek a board position in that organization. At the time, their protocol was that they divided the United States in half, basically. And there was a volunteer instructor—

20

Corrigan: East and west?

Hoover: East and west. And so I represented, well in the IHEA membership area, they advocate that there are 70,000 volunteer hunter ed. instructors. And I represented every one of them from Missouri east in the United States on that board of directors. And my personal belief was that if I was going to serve on the board of directors of the organization, I needed to have some skin in the game. And so I became a life member of the organization at that time. And served on that board for three years.

25

30

Corrigan: So that has to help open up, not just within Missouri, outside of Missouri, if you're in the state of Illinois or Minnesota or New York and you've taken one of these classes, if you can go to Missouri and hunt, or if you can go somewhere else, and that certification is valid, that would, I would think encourage participation. It would eliminate some paperwork and because I think at least with a lot of hunting is that it's like any type of tourism where it can bring—there's economic benefits to the state in which you're in. Do you think that helps? I mean, are you more encouraged, you said you don't do it now, were you more encouraged, or it wasn't a headache to go to Wyoming, per se? Or it's not a headache to go to Colorado? Do you think you're encouraged to expand your realm in that—I would think it would be prohibitive if you had to go to, I if want to go to Missouri, if I want to go to Iowa, if I have to take all of these classes in each place, I'm probably not going to go.

35

40

Hoover: Right. I don't consider it prohibitive at all. It's not something that entered my thinking. I think probably you're correct that by not having to do that, it eliminates one more barrier to keeping people from getting in there. I do think that this reciprocity, that this hunter ed. certification, one for all, is definitely a plus for hunting. Everything today in hunting is motivated ultimately by recruitment and retention of hunters. Those of us that have been

45

doing it a while aren't getting any younger. The younger folks have so many directions that they can go that don't include outdoor activities, and particularly hunting and shooting and conservation-minded pursuits, that everything is driven toward how can we keep the hunters we've got? How can we get more hunters back into the sport? Basically today, hunting is probably your major wildlife management tool. For example, here in Missouri, we don't have grizzly bears. We don't have high numbers of cougars. We don't have wolves. The things that would keep down deer populations naturally. And so if it were not for hunters, you wouldn't have a shrub in your yard. Your car would be hit by deer every time you went out on the road at night. That type of thing. And so, yes its tradition. We want to continue the tradition. But also, yes it is a very valuable wildlife management tool. And so we need to be able to keep that going.

Corrigan: I didn't really think of it on that side of it, that one of the state's way—state whether it be Department of Conservation to manage this is actually there's a need for hunters. Because I see, I'll read somewhere and say that the hunt this year was 250,000. Or it was two hundred and something, a couple hundred thousand heads of deer. That's a lot. That's, because the average person is only getting one or two? Is that correct?

Hoover: I wouldn't know what figures are. Anecdotally, I think yeah, you're close.

Corrigan: But that's a lot. You're right to say that if you don't have these hunters, and they don't continue on—I mean, there's a trickledown effect if there's ten times as many deer, and there are ten times as many accidents, there are insurance rates that go up. There is a need for the actual hunter to be part of that management process. And I'm glad you brought that up. I didn't necessarily think of it that way.

[End Track 12. Begin Track 13.]

Corrigan: Going back a little bit, I notice I wrote something down here. We were talking mainly about teaching somebody to walk across a fence or some of these education things. But firearms is only one side of it. You also are a bow instructor. Correct?

Hoover: Yes.

Corrigan: Do you cover that in your classes, too? Or is that a different class?

Hoover: There is a separate bow hunter education class. There is a little bit of a mention in the hunter ed. class about archery and muzzle loading and cross bows and traffic. Because it is a very broad education. But there is a separate bow hunter education class as well.

Corrigan: Because you teach that as well, too, right?

Hoover: Correct.

Corrigan: Now when did you first get involved with bow hunting?

Hoover: The following year. So, '99.

Corrigan: Oh, okay.

5 Hoover: Yeah, I started as a hunter ed. instructor in '98, and became a bow hunter ed. instructor in '99.

Corrigan: But when was your first introduction to actually bow hunting? Was it that late, or no?

10

Hoover: Well, I'd been bow hunting for a while, before I became hunter ed. certified. I can't remember. Perhaps in the early '80s is when I started bow hunting.

15 Corrigan: Okay. [pause] Okay, we took a brief little break that. I just started talking about, you were talking about bow hunting and some trapping and all that stuff was covered in the basic class. But then there was also a separate bow class. I'm curious to know, is the, is one much popular than the other?

20 Hoover: Yes. There's very little demand for the bow hunter ed. class, because bow hunter education is not mandatory.

Corrigan: Okay.

25 Hoover: Whereas hunter ed. is. Primarily people who have an interest and want to learn a little bit more, and people who are going to other states that require bow hunter ed. certification are the bulk of the students in our bow hunter ed. classes in Missouri. And then Missouri also had a trapper education manual that they no longer produce. But there are still a few of us around that conduct a trapper education class here in Missouri. But mostly it's private groups nowadays that are doing it. It's not the department.

30

Corrigan: Okay. We didn't talk about it at all, but going back a little bit, did you trap as a child?

35 Hoover: No. No, I didn't come into any of that until I was involved with hunter education. And there was a little section in the hunter ed. manual that dealt with trapping. We happened to have an older gentleman here in the community that I went to school with his kids, I've known him my whole life. He's one of the old trap as a kid for sustenance, even. So I would bring him into the hunter ed. classes and have him actually demonstrate during our trapping segment of the class. And kind of got into the swing of things through that connection.

40

Corrigan: Okay. It made me think of that because I told you I conducted that interview just west of here in Raymore. He was a lifetime trapper. And I didn't think about that. But he had learned it as a kid and it was originally for sustenance and then for money. And then it was a lifelong hobby.

45

Hoover: Right. Being able to bring someone in that had that personal experience and that seventy-plus years that they could bring to the table, in my mind, made for a far more interesting presentation in the class than me regurgitating what was in a book.

5 Corrigan: Yeah. This gentleman was very interesting. Little tricks and tips he had used—it was good. Do you see, of these 25, 28,000 people a year taking these classes, is say the popularity in bow going down? Is it going up? Is one taking over? Do you see the way in which people are hunting or wanting to hunt today change?

10 Hoover: There's a lot more popularity for the archery seasons today than there once was. And a surprising number, I think, to most people, is the fastest growing segment of our population getting into hunting in general is women. Which is very encouraging. But one of the nice draws to bow hunting in Missouri is your season lasts for, it begins in September and it doesn't end till January. Versus if you are a firearms deer hunter and you hunt the main
15 season, it lasts for 11 days. So. And we have additional opportunities. We have antlerless seasons, we have muzzle loader season, which nowadays is categorized with a different name. But you know, there's ample opportunity for gun hunters. Don't get me wrong there. But it's—

20 **[End Track 13. Begin Track 14.]**

Hoover: —but it's magnified many times over, the number of days that an archer can be in the woods. So that is some of the popularity as well.

25 Corrigan: Is that a recent influx of women? Are we talking in the last five years, ten years?

Hoover: I would not be a very good one to quote exact years. But in general, within the last five to eight years, I'm sure. You know, the National Shooting Sports Foundation puts out studies every five years, kind of a census, if you will, for hunting activities and so forth. And
30 within the last two of those reports, so within the last ten years of reports, we've seen that as a major upswing. I would be remiss as a Missourian if I didn't take the opportunity to say that in those reports that come out in the state of Missouri, because of what we do, the way we do it, Missouri does lead the nation in hunter recruitment and retention every year, and has for some time.

35 Corrigan: Okay.

Hoover: And so it is with pride that a Missourian that's involved with that says that if we're not doing it exactly right, we're in the right ballpark, you know, with our approach to this.

40 Corrigan: No, it's good. Do you have any sense of why—is it education? Or is it opportunities that there is an upswing in women participating? I wonder now, are they young, are they old? Are they wives or girlfriends? Or are they just people interested?

45 Hoover: You know, I'm cautious as to how to answer this, because this is an area I might get myself in trouble if I don't watch how I say it. But I think in general, women are doing more

and more things than what they once did. And I think that's being reflected in the hunting community. Unfortunately, I think there are also more single parents. And so if the single mother and her son or daughter want to hunt, it's going to be the mother that's out there with him. But I think in general, probably a large part of it is that more women are doing more things that traditionally were kind of the men's sports and so forth. And so that naturally comes into hunting as well, I believe.

5
10 Corrigan: Now with your classes that you're teaching, and with the program that you are directing, especially with the children, is it a lot of fathers and sons? Or is it grandparents? Or are you getting young girls involved?

Hoover: Yes. Thankfully, we are. Predominantly, it would be fathers and sons, still. But the clinic we conducted last weekend, we had two mother/son combinations and we had two father/daughter combinations out of the five students that we accept in our clinics. So we see grandparents, aunts and uncles, you know, coming through our clinics as the adult chaperone of our young hunter.

15
20 Corrigan: And how often, how many classes are you actually teaching and involved with on a regular basis?

Hoover: Well, at one time, here in the Pleasant Hill community, I attempted to conduct ten hunter ed. classes in a year. One a month, ten months out of the year. Unfortunately today, with the demands of my time with the federation, I may only be teaching seven or eight classes a year and all but two of them are involved directly with the clinics rather than a traditional hunter ed. class. But I still, for the Pleasant Hill community, I still try to conduct at least one class in the spring ahead of the turkey season, and one class in the fall ahead of the firearms deer seasons, that's open to the public.

25
30 Corrigan: Okay. So a lot of your time, you said, is consumed with this. As your job as executive director, what do you do?

Hoover: Everything. (laughter)

35 Corrigan: Is it promotion of the group? Is it going out and speaking about what your organization does? Is it, I mean, do you have to go around and speak to a lot of different clubs and groups? Or is it—

40 Hoover: It literally is all the above. The Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation started as a kitchen table organization in 2006 with six people. By 2008, we determined that we had something going here. It was worth pursuing. And in order for us to pursue and expand the way we wanted, we needed to become a 501c3 and have that solid foundation.

[End Track 14. Begin Track 15.]

45 Hoover: By 2010, we decide that if we were going to get big enough to really do what we wanted to do, we needed more than what an organizer could do in evenings and weekends.

So I was able to take an early retirement from my employment. And since 2010, this is my fulltime, my wife might say my 24/7. But this is my fulltime effort. And involved with that, we have conducted to date thirty-seven clinics. I personally have organized thirty-three of them, start to finish. We will go around to any civic or non-governmental organization that will listen to us and make a PowerPoint presentation. I do those. We recently, within the last two weeks, we recruited, opened up a new chapter in the Saint Louis region. I went to Saint Louis and trained those folks how to conduct our clinics. MHHF spent a good deal of time, trial and error, perfecting our model of how to mentor youth. And I will say right up front, it's not the only way to do it. But if you attend an MHHF clinic, it will be done this exact way, clinic after clinic, wherever in the state. And so we have produced an informational video about how we do that. We have written a procedures manual, a policy manual, of exactly a step by step blueprint of how to conduct the clinics. We provide this service to youth without charge to the youth. We attempted to identify and eliminate each and every barrier that would keep a young person from getting involved in hunting. So we furnish the firearms, we provide the ammunition, we provide the targets, the safety gear. We provide the places for them to hunt. We provide the mentors to guide them on that first hunt. We teach them hunter ed. We involve them in a live fire session. And everything that's involved with them, that student can be someone who has literally never touched a firearm before, and they can come to our clinic and everything they need to take and become hunter ed. certified to participate in live fire and go on their first hunt, we provide it. And so obviously there's funding. We have to have someone that vigorously pursues funding. And then of course there's just the day-to-day operation and managing. Our membership is still not large. There's something in the mid-seventies for members of this organization. But everything that goes along with the day-to-day operations of the 501c3 organization with members that conducts programs, we are very active. To give you an example, in a thirty-day span between the first of September and the first of October, we had seven events. Or have seven events going on. And it is part of my responsibility to organize and conduct those activities. It's a very involved position.

30 Corrigan: When you started this group with the six of you, was it, did you ever intend to, was it—you're laughing already, because you know where I'm going to go with this question. Was your, I guess your mission, your goal or idea to just help the greater Kansas City area? Was it just this area? I mean, you just said Saint Louis. Well, that's a whole other side of the state. Has it grown into that because of demand? Or was that your guys' initial vision?

Hoover: Well, I'm certain that at some point in the early days, some genius said, "Wouldn't this be nice if we were doing this all over the state?" (laughs) But I'm very confident that that genius didn't envision exactly how much work it would take to be able to accomplish that. Yes, admittedly when we first began this, we had an inkling in the back of our minds that if this thing is really as good as what we think it could be, that there could be a need for it throughout the state. And wouldn't it be nice if a group of volunteers—we often refer to it as putting a drop in the bucket. The overarching, the big picture is this hunter recruitment and retention. We are attempting to put a drop in the bucket towards that effort. And wouldn't it be nice if someday maybe we could do that throughout the entire state. Unfortunately, we kind of dreamed this, of going that big with it.

[End Track 15. Begin Track 16.]

5 Hoover: We're kind of at the point right now where we're big in accomplishment but small in resources and numbers. So that's a challenging time.

Corrigan: Is this Saint Louis branch, is this the first expansion across the state? Or no.

10 Hoover: The first expansion outside of the Kansas City metro area. We actually have two active chapters in the KC metro area. We've conducted events in nine counties in the west central part of the state. Those thirty-seven events have all occurred in nine counties right here around Kansas City. And the goal with the Saint Louis chapter is now we will have a group of folks on the other side of the state doing the same thing. And quite frankly, our
15 ambition is that we will put kind of a hub in a metropolitan area, and then have it branch out like spokes of a wheel from the hub. So we are currently talking with folks in the Columbia/Jeff City area to start another chapter there. We've laid some inroads in the northwest part of the state and the northeast part of the state both, to do the same thing in Saint Joe, Kirksville, that type of thing. And that's our ultimate goal is that eventually we
20 will have, just start with six to ten people that are conducting a clinic or two a year. And then have it grow from there.

Corrigan: Do you have a hard time finding youth? Or no.

25 Hoover: You know, it depends on your perspective. Right now, basically we are still word of mouth. Our clinics are small by design. We trial and error got to that point. But we defend that. That's just the way we do it. So we're looking for five to six youth, typically, at a time. Well, we might get three the first day we advertise one, and then two, three, four weeks later, we still don't have the other two. So there are times that we might literally make a phone call
30 to a local scout troop or something like that. Because we don't advertise on the internet. I mean, we have a calendar of events on our website. But you know, quite frankly, how many kids check your website to look for a calendar of events? That's what I was referring to that we were at that stage of we're very, very active, but we don't have a lot of manpower and resources yet. Basically, no. We don't have trouble finding youth, because there's always a demand for this. If you're going to take a young person out and get them hunter ed. certified
35 that they need, and you're going to give them an opportunity to shoot, and you're going to give them a place and a person to show them how to and take them on their first hunt. And then the fourth phase of our clinic is a group meal, so they all get to share their experience and their story like the old hunting camp. If you're going to do all that without charge, you
40 don't have trouble finding people to fill those roles.

Corrigan: Because if a child or a parent had to take care of all those things, it really would be cost-prohibitive to a lot of people.

45 Hoover: Absolutely.

Corrigan: Especially you mentioned a single parent or something. Because it's not cheap. Hunting's not a cheap hobby. I mean, it can be. But depending on how you look at it—

5 Hoover: The type of hunting, yeah.

Corrigan: The type of hunting and where you have firearms, ammunition, certification, tags, a location. Or even just trying to gain access to a place.

10 Hoover: Right.

Corrigan: I could see that to the average person without an organization like this being very cost-prohibitive or just even, not even knowing where to start.

15 Hoover: That's as much of it. I would say almost equal. Just a guess. But I would say almost equal to the cost factor is not knowing where to begin. And we come in with both those equations. We take care of both. So. Yeah, we don't really anticipate that it's going to be difficult filling our clinics. We right now at times have some difficulty because we're basically just word of mouth. And so it's just however much of that we can get our word out there.

20 Corrigan: Well, and you're still fairly new, too, 2006, even. But if you just retired in 2010 to take this over, you're only two years in, correct?

25 Hoover: We're working on our third year right now of having one person dedicated fulltime to the effort. I mean, compared to, for example, a CFM that has a fulltime staff of five or six people, it's—

30 Corrigan: With a lot of resources and a lot. Is that organization one that you can look towards for help?

Hoover: Absolutely.

35 Corrigan: I mean, they have a lot of word of mouth. They have a lot of access to people throughout the whole state.

Hoover: We are proudly an affiliate of Conservation Federation of Missouri. The MHHF, we call it the federation sometimes, but we affiliated with three groups: The International Hunter Ed Association—

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

45 Hoover: —the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and Missouri's hunter ed. program from the Missouri Department of Conservation. And we're proud of those affiliations and we leaned heavily on all three organizations. They have been strong supporters of us getting up and running.

Corrigan: Okay. As a side note, I saw here that you are a lifetime member of the NRA, too. Is that correct? And it says NRA certification and a range safety officer. Is that another one of those that you've attended classes that you now can teach people?

5 Hoover: Right. If I chose to, yeah, I could do that. Quite frankly, I just used it for personal information. Since an important component of our clinic is a supervised live fire, I wanted the NRA's information on how to conduct those safely.

Corrigan: Is there good or easy access to materials from them that you can use? Or is it a—

10

Hoover: There would be if I chose to go that route. But I don't—

Corrigan: Because I see that as a national organization, where a lot of the things you mentioned are all very Missouri-specific.

15

Hoover: Right. Yeah.

Corrigan: Okay. We talked about this just briefly, and we can touch on here, a little earlier. But in general, this area has been, urban sprawl has come from Kansas City in this area. It's gotten bigger, more populated. With our challenges, do you see a positive, negative, or any other way, has the general environment, so the water, land, soil erosion, anything that you see since you've been in here so long? I mean, is it still in pretty good condition? Or do you think people work and care about the land in this area?

20

25 Hoover: You know, I think they do care. I disagree with the way they care, perhaps would be the way I say that. Anytime you take a forty-acre crop field, for example, if the farmer was conscious about conservation and so forth, they would not have plowed right to the road ditch. They would have left that buffer around it. You would have had a timbered hedgerow around the fence line and that type of thing. And that's wildlife buffer. There would have been perhaps a little mud hole pond for water. All of those things are good for wildlife. Well, then that farmer sells that in four ten-acre tracks. And four nice folk come out and they build a house on it. And the first thing they do is they bring out the great big huge riding
30 lawnmower and they mow the entire ten acres. There's no more wildlife benefits there. You know, that forty acres that was seeds and weeds and cover and water and nesting and all that type of thing, that's now lawn. That is manicured lawn. And so it has been a detriment to
35 wildlife habitat. And it's not that those folks shouldn't be here. It's not that they haven't bought and paid for the land and have the right to be here. It's not that they're not good folks thinking they're doing the right thing. They just perhaps are not as well-informed about the right thing, including what's good for wildlife in their plan. You know, they have a beautiful
40 lawn. It's very well-manicured. But it's manicured clear to the fence. And so there's not going to be any wildlife there.

Corrigan: Do you think a lot of that's just lack of education about conservation and wildlife for somebody who maybe has never been experienced to it? They moved out of the city?

45

Hoover: Right.

Corrigan: Do you think that's probably the main reason?

5 Hoover: I think so. But they're not doing anything deliberately harmful. They just don't know that what they're doing doesn't benefit the wildlife.

Corrigan: So you are involved in the Conservation Federation. Is that correct? You've been a member for a long time?

10 Hoover: I have been. I served on their board of directors for three terms. And when the MHHF got up and running to the extent that we are today, I didn't have the time to devote to CFM and do right by that position. And so I left their board of directors. But I am a life member of CFM and I do still participate. I am a committee chairman on one of their resource committees yet, perform a function at their annual convention each year.

15 Corrigan: What committee are you on?

Hoover: (laughs) Ironically, sportsmen's rights, firearms, and hunter education.

20 Corrigan: Sportsmen's' rights. What does that actually mean?

Hoover: Primarily our focus in that—

[End Track 17. Begin Track 18.]

25 Hoover: —resource committee is, for example, legislative issues that would deal with sportsmen's' rights. Anything dealing with the hunter education program and the safety of hunters. Anything dealing with new equipment coming down the line. Whatever CFM might feel the need to take a position on in any of those three categories would fall under the umbrella of that resource committee.

30
35 Corrigan: Okay. Can you talk a little bit about the role of importance of CFM? It has a huge membership, it has a huge outreach in the state. Is the success of conservation in Missouri, is it directly dependent and also because of the Conservation Federation working along with the Department of Conservation?

40 Hoover: Perhaps a little historical perspective as I understand it might benefit as an answer. Back in the 1930s, the grassroots folks that got together and formed the CFM. It wasn't under that name. But as I understand it, their goal was just to get this independent state agency that we now know as the Missouri Department of Conservation, just to get that organization up and running, and then be done and go by the wayside. CFM, I mean, go by the wayside. They have instead been around now for seventy-five plus years. I think that the two are definitely linked. I think that the success of both can be credited by their being linked together. Missouri's conservation model is unique in the United States and the world. Much envied.

45 People would love to imitate it, and they just quite frankly can't in other areas of the country. And I think a large part of Missouri's success is that they had the non-governmental

organization of CFM running interference for them, paving the way for them, making things possible for them. And still being there as a citizen advocacy group is, it's kind of watchdog supporter, all things rolled into one. And because CFM under its umbrella includes everyone. It's not strictly hunter-based, it's not strictly science-based, it's not strictly anything. It's everyone's welcome, and everyone's included. So everyone in Missouri has a stake and an interest in conservation because of that. So yeah, I would say CFM has been a very integral part of Missouri's success in conservation.

Corrigan: Now do you remember the sales tax initiatives in the '70s?

Hoover: You know, in the '70s, I was kind of a young kid. And my focus wasn't on anything nearly that—I wish I could say that as a teenager I was focused on such things, but I really wasn't.

Corrigan: In what areas do you think that Missouri is spot on, as a state, in conservation? And on the flip side, where do you think they could improve? And specifically I'm thinking about, and you mentioned it just briefly earlier, you know, there weren't turkeys at one time. And then there are. There are no big mammals, although now there's the reintroduction of elk. I'm curious to know your thoughts on restoration like that. Specifically I know some people have very widening opinions about reintroduction of elk. But not just specific to that, but I just mean in general, where does Missouri need to go from here in conservation, in your opinion? And it could be education-related, it could be anything. I'm just—broad question there. Is there areas that Missouri needs to improve on? And is there areas where they're just spot on? What do you see?

Hoover: You know, I'm very, very proud of Missouri's efforts to involve youth, to recruit youth, to conservation, hunting, the shooting sports, all that I kind of lump into one category under one umbrella. Missouri, I think, compared to a lot of states, is just really bending over backwards. And we don't stop at the border. For an example, any youth can come to the state of Missouri now—this is recent, within the last couple of years. And for the same cost of a tag that a resident youth would incur, go hunting during a Missouri youth season. So Missouri youth, during a youth-only deer hunting season, for, I think it would be eight dollars and fifty cents.

[End Track 18. Begin Track 19.]

Hoover: Basically a half-price tag. If they're hunter ed. certified or if they're in the presence of a hunter ed. certified mentor, for eight dollars and fifty cents they can go deer hunting.

Well, Kansas youth can come over here and do the same thing now. Iowa, and so forth.

That's a big deal. When you stop to consider that a non-resident tag is close to two hundred dollars. They can forego that 200-dollar nonresident tag and come hunt for \$8.50. That's one example. Our youth-only seasons. We set aside special times of the year that no one but youth is allowed to hunt certain species. The fact that we have so many people in our state that are forward-thinking enough, wise enough, to recognize that, I think that's a big plus.

And MDC's pushing that. I mean, they initiated that, they advocate it. Those are all types of things that I think are examples of what our department's doing right. Of course, jealously

defending our 1/8 of one percent sales tax, that constant source of funding for conservation. I fear what might happen if we ever lose that. If that ever is sunset, I have a great fear that perhaps the citizens of the state today do not—you know, it's kind of one of those things that you don't know what you've got till you've lost it. They didn't fight for it. They're not necessarily aware of what it does every day for them. And if it was ever not there, it would be a tremendous loss for the state, and probably very difficult to get back. So, you know, doing what they do with that funding. Making sure that they do the right thing so that we can continue to maintain that funding. There are a number of things that I think the Missouri Department of Conservation does well. The other side of that equation, what could they improve on? I have to admit, I'm one of those folks that is pretty focused on doing what we're doing. And I probably couldn't give you what do I think they should do different or better. You know, there are some little things that come to mind that I'd like to see personally, or something of that nature. But I'm probably not going to be able to answer that part. (laughs)

15 Corrigan: That's okay. What do you think about continued restoration of certain animals to Missouri? Are you for elk restoration?

20 Hoover: I am.

Corrigan: I mean, mountain lions, they're working their way back in independently. Not anything here, I mean, not anything that the department's doing, they're just stray, single males.

25 Hoover: Right. You know, I'm all for any of that kind of stuff. I'm to the point in my life I'm probably not ever going to go back and climb a ten thousand, twelve thousand foot mountain to see an elk. It kind of tickles me to see them here in the state. I don't get too awfully worked up about oh my goodness, what's going to happen to my car if I hit one of those things? Yeah, sure. It could be an isolated incident. It could be very traumatic for that one person that it happens to. But I don't see that's a reason for everyone in the state of Missouri, and the state itself, to be without it. So yeah, I'm all for it. I know that the department did a lot to reintroduce otters, and there's a lot of people that complain about that. I think in general it was a plus. I'm very thankful that they did what they did to return deer and turkey and some of those species to the state. I would applaud their efforts.

35 Corrigan: You mentioned the otters. And that was one where it was, it's probably the same thing that's going on with the elk right now. There was a lot of people, especially farmers, and especially private landowners that had ponds. And people had stocked their fish that there was a big war here, it was controversial. But it seems to, now that the years have gone by, it's peaked a while ago. And it's down to a more sustainable number, the otters, that there's probably that same kind of curve that's going to have to happen with the elk after time, after introduction, after not being afraid of them or realizing that you're not going to see them in Columbia, Missouri or in Kansas City metro area. That they're really taking steps to just introduce them over the long-term in a very defined area. I could probably see 45 similarities that are probably going to happen. I told you I interviewed Glenn Chambers, and he was one of the main restorers of the otters.

Hoover: Right. The otter guy.

5 Corrigan: He talked about that learning curve of introducing people to them, since they hadn't seen them, and didn't know what to do with them for so long, that they're not just, they're not a nuisance, they're not just a—

[End Track 19. Begin Track 20.]

10 Corrigan: —problem. And that there's a purpose for them and there's a reason for them and they belonged here.

Hoover: You know, you mentioned people with their ponds, and it brought to mind a point. It could very well be that it was the Missouri Department of Conservation that made possible
15 for that landowner to have a pond and to stock it. That was one of the early programs that the department had back in the '40s and '50s was getting more ponds out there. More water for wildlife. And stocking fish in them. So yeah, it was, for the individuals that endured that, it was a difficult time to see some of their fish depleted. But I think in general, I think on balance it's all a benefit for the state.

20 Corrigan: Switching gears a little bit, I had met your wife when I first came in. But would you mind telling me your wife's name again? And you have, I believe, four children?

Hoover: Mm hmm.

25 Corrigan: Could you share all their names with me?

Hoover: I don't mind. My wife is Karen. Karen and I were in high school together. We were
30 high school sweethearts here in Pleasant Hill. We do have four children. Our oldest son is Travis. His younger brother, Rick. And then our only daughter, Stacie. And then our youngest son is Brent. And we have nine grandchildren now.

Corrigan: Now I would ask you how you're leisurely spending your retirement, but we know
35 that you're not. Is this, I mean primarily besides, you said you get to hunt a little bit here and there on your own, but that you're busy with this. But is this how you're, it sounds like it, that this is your fulltime retirement job for now.

Hoover: Oh, yeah.

40 Corrigan: That this keeps you busy day to day.

Hoover: You know, one of the things that I tell all the people in our group that are in
45 leadership positions, beginning of the day you start finding your replacement. And I believe that. I fully intend to one day turn what I do over to a young man your age and watch them and that generation take what we started and run with it and make it grow and make it wonderful. But until that day comes, yeah, I'm here. (laughter)

Corrigan: Are there any other hobbies or things that you do get a chance to do, or that you enjoy doing? Or this is your full time job doing this right now.

5 Hoover: Yeah, this, there is a swing of about just a hair over four months in the spring and another one of just a hair over five months in the fall that it can be 24/7 throughout the entire time. And then during the remaining almost three months out of the year, it's more of a normal, day to day operation of just business as usual of conducting the organization. But right now, we are at the point that it literally takes someone that's willing to do the 80 hour plus week, seven days a week, and that type of thing, to make it all work.
10

Corrigan: Before I forget, what did you actually retire from? What did you do before you did this? You said 2010 you took early retirement. But I'm just curious, what did you do?

15 Hoover: For thirty-two years prior to that, I drove a truck primarily for Associated Wholesale Grocers out of Kansas City, Kansas. It was a grocery warehouse. We delivered to retail markets in four states. Dave may have given you the heads up. I often refer to myself as a danged old ignorant truck driver, and it is literally true. (laughs)

20 Corrigan: So it was a grocery company. So, food?

Hoover: Yes. Anything you buy in your retail supermarket comes through a warehouse. And I worked for that warehouse. Delivered it by semi load to the stores.

25 Corrigan: Okay.

Hoover: I ran primarily in Iowa and Nebraska.

Corrigan: What was the fourth state, then, besides Missouri?
30

Hoover: Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska.

Corrigan: Oh, Kansas. Okay. Good. Is there anything before, we're nearing the end here. Is there anything, whether it be your youth, anytime, is there any stories or things that we didn't cover, or a topic that we didn't cover that before we got here, you thought we would. I want to give you a chance if there's something you want to mention, or about program or anything that you do, I want to make sure you have that opportunity if I missed something.
35

Hoover: Oh, I couldn't think what it was.
40

Corrigan: I try to be thorough and cover lots of areas, but if I missed something, you can feel free to share it. But I think we did cover a lot here. We did pretty good. And I appreciate you taking your time out today. I know you said this is a very busy time. You've got seven events this month. So this two hours here has been—
45

[End Track 20. Begin Track 21.]

Corrigan: I appreciate it greatly and it will help out this project a lot.

Hoover: Well, thank you for the opportunity.

5

Corrigan: Thank you. I'm going to go ahead and shut off the recorder right now.

[End Track 21. End Interview.]

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