

Camille Borroum Mitchell

Borroum's Drug Store

Date: March 10, 2016

Location: Borroum's Drug Store, 604 E. Waldron St., Corinth, MS 38834

Interviewer: Kate Wiggins

Transcription: Margaret Gaffney

Length: One hour, fifty-three minutes

Project: A Hamburger by Any Other Name

[General note on this transcription – the interviewer, is far away from the mic, and often hard to hear, and the interviewee, Camille Borroum Mitchell, often ‘laughs’ the ends of her sentences (laughing and talking at the same time). Towards the end of the interview, both are near the counter and there are a lot ambient noises (kids yelling, phones ringing, customers talking, etc.)]

START INTERVIEW

00:03

Kate Wiggins:

Ok...it is Thursday, March 10th, at...9:26 a.m. and I’m in Bourrom’s Drug Store in Corinth, Mississippi, and I’m talking today with Camille Borroum Mitchell. Good morning, I’m going to put the microphone over to you now...

00:26

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I can’t hear...

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Kate Wiggins:

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You can’t hear me? OK, I’ll speak up...

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Mm-hmm, OK, that’s better.

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Kate Wiggins:

OK. Now, we were just talking about your dogs...[both laugh] So tell me the names of all seven of your dogs.

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh, all seven of the dogs? [both laugh]

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Kate Wiggins:

[laughs] Only if you can remember them, I just wanted to ask to get a fuller picture!

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, alright, there’s Little Bit, and there’s Lovey, they’re the little terriers. Uh, there’s, uh, Old

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Yeller, that’s a...lab, and there’s Charlie that’s a, really a special needs dog. Uh, we got [Fererra ??]. And there’s one dog, uh, that we don’t really know, probably part Doberman and part unknown. And then there’s another dog that, uh, we had picked up the other day that had gotten hit, and, uh, uh, it, she looks sorta like a pug, but she really isn’t [laughs]. And I guess, that’s, I

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don’t think I, oh, we got Shadow. Shadow is a...half border collie and half Chow, she’s a great, big girl...[laughs]...all fifteen years of her.

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Kate Wiggins:

So...tell me...where you were born and when you were born.

01:46

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh, I was in Corinth, Mississippi, I’ve lived here all my life. I was born on April the 17th, 1926.

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Kate Wiggins:

So you have a birthday coming up!

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I do have a birthday coming up...Lord be willing! [laughs]

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Kate Wiggins:

A big one!

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

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A big one [laughs], I’d just as soon go backwards! [laughs]

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Kate Wiggins:

Are you planning to celebrate?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Not, uh, not, not necessarily [laughs], it just depends on what we decide to do.

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Kate Wiggins:

You were the first woman to go to Ole Miss’s Pharmacy School, tell me about that.

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I, uh, well, I was looking for the chemistry building, and I couldn’t find it, so I went into the pharmacy building, and I, of course, part of the chemistry department was in there. And I went

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in, and looked around, and I, uh...read some of the literature and decided, well I’ll just, I believe I’ll sign up for pharmacy instead. And, uh, nobody said anything...I just signed up! [laughs] It, it wasn’t for several days that I realized I was the only woman, the only young lady, you might say, in, uh, some of the classes, but they, I thought they would change, but, uh...and they did.

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Kate Wiggins:

Did you work in a drug store [unintelligible].

02:58

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

03:00

Yes, I did. My first job was working over here on the soda fountain. I asked my grandfather for a job, and he said, “you sure you want a job?” And I said, “yes.” So I thought I was going to get to work in the pharmacy, but...I got to wash dishes. And, so after, I didn’t really like it, but in those days it, I asked for a job, I was given a job, I did the job I asked. And, uh, [laughs], but in

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about a month I finally got up enough nerve to finally ask him if I could have a *different* job. And he wanted to know why I didn’t like that one, and I says, “Well, I believe I’m a little smarter than that.” So he put me on the cash register...[laughs]...and about two years later I got to go back in the pharmacy, and I, oh, I was really delighted about that, and we had a really good veterinarian at that time, Dr. Stroop. He went to South America when they had the hoof and mouth breakout down there with the cattle, and he helped saved the herds down there, so he was

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exceptional...but he also used aloe powders...every spring and every fall, to give the cattle, that was to clean their system out. Well, those old scales back there...I weighed out 500 aloe powders. Oh, I was just delighted, I thought that was just really lots of fun, it was about six or seven weeks before I discovered that nobody wanted the job. [laughs] So, that was my first

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experience in the pharmacy, and aloe powders are kind of volatile, they go up in your nose...and mouth, and, uh, uh, anyway, uh, Dr. Stroop left with all that, s-some concoctions he had rigged up, and he, uh, with a strong tincture of iodine, is the only thing I can remember, of course it was a lot more than that, and he left for South America [laughs]. I guess every drug store in town probably got to fix 500 powers, because he kind of scattered things out, you know.

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Kate Wiggins:

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How old were you when you started working there, as, uh, washing dishes, and when did you get to the pharmacy?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh, I was about fourteen. Thirteen, fourteen...and, uh, anyway, it, but I was probably, uh, about fifteen or sixteen when I finally got back into the pharmacy.

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Kate Wiggins:

And what did you serve at the soda fountain at that time?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, the same thing we serve today, except we didn’t serve sandwiches. You had what you call

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‘tea sandwiches’ which were little light sandwiches, but, uh, they wasn’t the main thing, the main thing was, uh, ice cream cones, ice cream sodas, milk shakes, banana splits, sundaes, things like that...and cokes, of course we made the cokes over there too. And I don’t remember us making Dr. Pepper and all that until later.

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Kate Wiggins:

You mentioned that you got to run the cash register [can’t hear] is this the same cash register you were telling me about?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

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No, that’s a different, that was a small one, this one right here was made in 1926, it’s the same age as I am, it’s n-, it’s never been repaired, can you believe it? It’s a National Cash Register...that’s who it’s made by. We called them, or at least I did, when we decided to use it

again, and I, uh, well we had an armed robbery, I, uh, you might not want to say that... anyway they tried to prise open the drawers, instead of punching the buttons, and, uh, it kind of messed it

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up, so I wanted NCR to refurbish it, and the young man says, “Now what age is, did you say that cash register was?” And I told him, “1926.” And he says, “Did you say 1986?” I says, “No, 1926.” He says, “Did you say 1946?” I says, “No! It’s 1926!” He says, “Old lady, we don’t even have anybody who knows what one looks like.” [laughs] Oh, it was hilarious! And, but

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they did come make a picture of it.

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Kate Wiggins:

That’s a great story!

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And so we got out some lightweight machine oil and some WD-40 and we sprayed it down and it’s still working.

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Kate Wiggins:

That’s wonderful!

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

It’s amazing. So it’s really never been repaired. And, you know, it’s, it’s...it’s *huge*. It’d take two...good-sized men to pick it up. Maybe...more...and, uh, but it does everything our new

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cash registers do today, it’s just clumsier. But it tell, it has six drawers and it tells you, uh, so each cu-, each clerk had their own key, so they locked their drawer and they were responsible for it balancing at the end of the month. And then it tells you how many customers each drawer has. Uh, it tells you how many ‘no sales’ you had. It tells you how many charges you had. It’s

08:00

amazing what it does! And then at the end of the month it subtotals out. And then at the end of the year it totals it out. You got this enormous key that’s at least a foot long [laughs] that you have to put in there to turn it. But isn’t that, uh...but what we did with our technology is that we took that, uh, and condensed it. Simplified it.

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Kate Wiggins:

When we were on the phone the other day, you told me a story about the men who tried to rob the store. Do you mind telling that story? [Camille laughs] Yes? So I can get it on recording?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

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It was, it was real funny. And it was in the summertime, and, uh, we used to stay open until 7 or 8 o’clock, so we were getting ready to go home, and Dad was over there, over behind the soda fountain, about where he is sits, sitting. And I was standing about where *he* is sitting, and, uh, I looked up and I saw these two men come in, and I says, “Dad, I believe...” you know, it was a pretty good distance, I says, “I believe these men have stockings over their faces.” And about

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the time he raised up, he was getting him a can of soup to take home, I says, “they’ve got sawed-off shotguns.” So they walked right up to me and I had keys in my hands, I remember Dean Hammond telling me, “don’t ever look ‘em in the eye, and give ‘em whatever you got, you know, they’re going to take it anyway.” So I handed ‘em all the keys I had, I had no clue where they went to at that moment, and I says, “Gentlemen, is there anything else I can do for you?” [laughs] Well, of course, they had, you were aware who they was, they had been here before, no

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question about it, and so, they duct-taped us up to a table back there, left us, and Daddy says, “*Why* in the H did you say, call them ‘gentlemen’?” [laughs] And I says, “Well, what was I going to call them, Mr. Robber?” [laughs] Well, they liked to never let me get over that. But, you know, what *do* you do? [laughs] I guess I could have kept my mouth shut. [laughs] I have

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never been prone to that. But...it’s funny after it was over with, but it was rather...shocking when you realized what was the problem, and, uh...I got tickled, they wanted Daddy to open the safe...he couldn’t remember the combination! I...between the two of us, we finally got it open, but it got...frightened is what we were. And, uh...but they knew exactly what was in the safe,

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and I still don’t, to this day, understand how they knew...all that. Of course, with the restrooms to the back of the store, and it’s a possibility, going back and forth, they observed...but anyway...it was...funny, in a weird sort of way. [laughs]

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Kate Wiggins:

Is, this is the original location, is that right?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

We were located, for about a year, over here on Crews St. And, uh, uh...Daddy Borroum had,

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my great-grandfather, had a lab up there, uh, because Corinth was on the military route, and nothing was being shipped in. And how we got here in the first place was a little unusual, he was going back to his home in Oxford, MS, and he ran into it with Dr. Young, and Dr. Young and Dr. Borroum had been in the Battle of New Orleans together. So Dr. Young saw a way to get

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medicines, because Dr. Borroum was, they didn’t call them pharmacists in those days, but that’s what he was to us today. And so, uh, he persuaded him to stay and help him practice here. He told him that Corinth was going to grow a whole lot more than Oxford...that’s not exactly the

way it worked, but...[laughs] Anyway, so he moved over, we moved over to this building after that, this one became available. This one was a saddlery, and, uh, the building next door was a

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tin shop, and the building over here was a livery stable. I’m not sure why it was such a good location, but it was in front of the courthouse anyway [laughs] and, uh, so, uh, Dr. Young and Dr. Borroum practiced down, the medicines, downstairs, and he would go upstairs and make up the tinctures and...all those types of things that they fixed in those days. And some of them

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work today [laughs]. And, uh...but, uh, uh...later, of course, as...times changed, drugs became available and they quit making them. He apparently didn’t want to go into the drug business [laughs]...that way. [laughs] But, uh, uh...we went back in the times, as you see it today, in the ‘80’s, after urban renewal came through...and just destroyed the downtowns. I feel sure there

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was good points of the urban renewals, but it did...cause a lot of problems. Uh, but, uh, when they left, there wasn’t anything left but the court house, lawyers, two, three jewelry stores, I believe, and, uh, one hardware left in downtown proper...everything kind of checked out.

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Kate Wiggins:

Have more businesses...

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

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We had banks. Oh, yes. After that, we like to think that we might have helped some, in some way. Oh, we decided to take out everything modern in the store. We had been a Walgreens agency, or a [RexDrug??] agency, and, uh, so we took out our modern front for the time, and put in a replica of the old front, and put in these show-cases down, these wall-cases that had been stored since 1939. And then we took the fountain, the soda fountain up to Chicago Fountain and

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Sales...and had it reworked. It was made in 1939 too. And, uh, uh, my youngest son, he says, “You know what people are going to think?” I says, “Yeah, and they might be right.” [laughs] But we put the...typical furnishings for the ‘50’s and ‘60’s. I thought that was a good period of time in the United States, because it was a time when everything was made in the USA, the war was over, and everybody was working and we had very little crime...and, uh, it was...he was

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right...they did think we might of...drank too much or something [laughs]. But, uh, uh, well, one thing that really surprised me is I thought the old people would take to it quick, and it was the younger people that took to it. Well, you, you were surprised too! I was. And then the older people came back and then, of course, uh, uh, I think we made the right decision at the right

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time. Uh, we had a lot out by the hospital and we could have moved out by, because see all the doctors have moved their offices out there...and, uh, or we could have closed up. But, uh, I elected to stay here, and uh, uh...go back into time. And it’s worked for us. Because at that time frame...you coulda shot a canon down the street, and you wouldn’ta hit a soul. It was really desolate. And, uh, but, uh, after we did our front, then the, uh...the Littles down the street did

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theirs, and, uh, the Littles over there on Crews Street did theirs...and then some down here on, on Waldron Street did theirs...and, you know, and it just kind of...kept on rolling and then, one time...uh, uh...Channel 5 came over, they were covering a murder trial over at the courthouse. I remember they needed a place to store their equipment. So, uh, I said, “well, you can just use

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our upstairs,” and I gave them a key to it, and, uh, thinking nothing about it, and, uh, it proved to be a little bit longer than they had expected. And, uh, they, uh, when they went to leave, they brought us a check and I says, “Well, I, I’m not going to take that check!” I says, [unintelligible] So about six or seven weeks, and it might have been a little bit longer, they sent us and autographed picture of their staff. And then, a few weeks after that they called and they wanted to know if

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they could come do a story on the store. So, uh, that’s, uh, was one of the first beginnings of tourism. I guess our really first beginning of tourism is ours, I worked for The Commercial Appeal...and the editor called me one day and asked me if I would do a feature story on the drug

store. And I said, “Oh, sure...” And I was getting ready to...mail it off, and I was sitting back there in that first booth, and you know how your friends are...they read what you write, then make all these suggestions on how you *should* have written it. [laughs] Anyway, we were
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laughing and carrying on about it and there was two young men were sitting over there, opposite to us, and they had on pilot uniforms...and, uh, they says, “can we read that?” And I says, “why, certainly.” And then they asked for a copy. And we gave them a copy, we thought no more of the situation. And then, it must have been six or seven months later, it, we got a large group of tourists, to *us* it was a large group of tourists. It was about 77 people, from Australia and New

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Zealand. And I thought, “we hadn’t never seen an Australian or a New Zealander!” [laughs] In fact, I find that Australians are real friendly, and I finally asked him, I says, “Well, you know, how did you find Mississippi? How did you find Corinth, much less Borroum’s Drug Store?” They read about us in a magazine on the back of a plane. So I guess that was really our first beginning. The rest of it, just the ball started going...we did the right thing at the right time.

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Kate Wiggins:

Do you remember about what year that was?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Uh...I probably...it was...I feel like it was in the '90's...probably the early '90's. I can't really...I can't really place...exact timing on that...

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Kate Wiggins:

That's OK. Never mind.

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

At least that’s close! [laughs] But, uh, anyway, uh, we enjoyed them and they were just extremely nice and, and, uh... Then after that we had people from Russia, and France,

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and...Bogota, Columbia, and, uh, and do, other places in South America that came, and we had people from Russia, oh, I don’t know...we’ve had...Holland, and we had one from Germany too. He’s trying to dig me, a little bit, I guess you might say, saying something about

Mississippi...and we are different, I agree, but being different isn’t always a bad thing. And, uh,

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so, uh, I told him, I says, “You know...did you know where the first heart transplant was done?” He told me, “Johns Hopkins.” And I says, “No. Jackson, Mississippi.” [laughs] And he, he says something else, and, and my disposition being what it is, I had to answer him back and I says, “Do you know where the first kidney and pancreas transplant was done?” He told me, “Austin,

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TX.” And I says, “No. Jackson, *Mississippi*.” [laughs] And, so then he asked me, something else came up, he was looking at some artifacts back in the back, uh...he says something else about our educational system... I says, “Well, by the way,” I says, “you know where the first Junior Colleges were first...built?” And, well, he didn’t know that one. I says, “Mississippi.” [laughs] So...we do a lot of things right. We, you know, during, uh...he laughed about it, and

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we did too. But, uh, he, I, I do think he was right about the educational system. The way he explained it to us, was that, uh, they have a, uh, a technical...branch and then they have one that’s going to college. And, but they have to stay in, stay *in* high school until they graduate...or nothing applies. But if a young person is really more interested in the technical side of education, well they automatically get them a job where they would like to work. And so they,

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they work...part-time and then they go to school. And when they graduate from high school, they *have* to graduate, then they’re guaranteed a job as soon as they get out. And, and, uh, if I...have all that correct, uh... But that’s...that’s, that’s a good idea, it kind of reminded me of when we had “Vo-Tech.” And I think that’s probably...theirs is a little more technical, more...but still, it’s similar. And, uh, uh...uh, oh yeah, and I asked him, I told him one other

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thing, I says, “do you know where the first AIDS case was arrest, arrested?” And he said, “California.” And I said, “No, California used our process that was developed in Mississippi.” [laughs] Oh gee, you know, you have to say something sometimes, for the s-, well, I enjoyed talking to him anyway. But, uh, lots of people get a misconception and when they come here,

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they seem to leave with a different idea. And, uh, I think that’s good...uh, for the state, uh...and really and truly for everybody. [laughs]

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Kate Wiggins:

Do you find that visitors want come in to look around...

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, they do that.

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Kate Wiggins:

...and then stay for lunch?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

That, that, oh yeah, a lot of them stay for lunch, and lots of them get prescriptions here, so they’ll, uh, say where they got it, you know? Then, uh, uh, some of them are so flabbergasted, to use a word some of the kids use, and they have to look around and try it, because they’ve never seen a drug store like this. And they’ve never seen the cobalt blue bottles with the, uh, gold-

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plated, uh, labels on them. And then, and then those old scales over there and all that, that, paraphernalia, they, they want to know what that’s for. And I thought, well, I know one of them weighs aloe’s real well. [laughs] Uh, at the end, you know, we have people who just...bring us things and... Uh...we didn’t start out with the idea of putting all these pictures up, but...uh, we discovered that it, uh, made it, made a difference in how they felt, and we thought, well, why

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not? And we had a lady that went to a tag sale and she came in, she had a long... she was from, from Pickwick, and she had a long, uh, silver, aluminum tube, I guess, I’m not sure what it was made of, but anyway it was metal, and, uh...she said that she had bought that and that she had worked and worked and finally got it, got the end taken off, and when she pulled it out, it was

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Dr. Borroum’s license when he graduated from Louisiana Medical School. It was his, uh, marriage license, he got married in, uh...Alabama. And it was his, uh, Tennessee license. So, he...

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Kate Wiggins:

This is your great...?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

My great-grandfather, the one who had opened the store. And I thought, where in the world, all those years, that had been. ‘Cause I believe that diploma reads “1861.” It’s been a while since I’ve looked at it. [laughs] But it’s in either 1861, or 62, something like that, because, no, it had to

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have been prior to that, because he, uh, it would have had to be prior to 1860, because he came through here in 1863. So...

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Kate Wiggins:

Now, you have...how many children were in your family?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, in *my* family I was the only child.

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Kate Wiggins:

You were?

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yes, there’s an advantage to being an only child! [laughs]

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Kate Wiggins:

Yes, I am one too, I understand

23:54

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

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[laughs] And, uh, I have four children. My oldest daughter is a judge in Columbus, Mississippi. And, uh, then, my, uh, oldest son is a realtor. And my youngest son is a contractor and he works down here with me. [laughs] I told him he was a jack of all trades. And, uh, my youngest daughter works with abused children. So, uh...uh, so we don’t have anybody now that I can see

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in the future that would be the least bit interested in the store, uh, you can, people change, but I, I really doubt it. We have one who has the personality, but, uh, uh, he, he-he, was not, uh...really...gung ho on school, what do you call that maybe. [laughs] But he might settle down, and I have another grandson that’s an EMT. And, uh, uh, his wife is a nurse, and, you don’t

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know, uh, they might. But so far, nobody’s shown an interest! [laughs]

25:02

Kate Wiggins:

I was talking to your daughter-in-law, Debbie, earlier this morning and she says that you were pretty eager for her and her husband to come join you here.

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Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah [laughs]! Uh, yeah, uh, we got...uh...it was...see the fountain was the problem. So,

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Debbie, with her arm twisted a little bit, agreed to take over running the fountain, and, uh, so then Lex came in, uh, and he, uh, uh...with his daughters, I a, uh, Leslie is a, uh, pharmacy tech. But, uh, I can’t get her to go to pharmacy school. [laughs] I’ve tried! But, uh, so they all just came and pitched in, what was need to be done and did. Uh, and Lex wanted us to put our old front back. And he’s the one who helped me move the cases down here, ‘cause they, like I said,

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they had been stored upstairs. And we had talked about that old cash register back there, Dad thought that during the war, World War II, there was going to be a great shortage of paper...well, we’ve got reams and reams and reams of receipt papers. [laughs] That’ll teach us! We’ll never use them if we live to be two thousand years old, I don’t believe! [laughs] They’ve gotten a little

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yellow...they *were* white. [laughs] Every time we go upstairs we look at those things and we say, oh well, we’re going to throw them away and then, Lex says, “We *might* need them.” [laughs]

You just have to laugh at things...uh, we’ve had a lot things happen in here. Ed Allen, the Chief of Police, came in here, uh, that’s when tear gas first came into being. And, oh, he was so proud that they had the tear gas and while he was explaining to us how it worked, he dropped it.

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Well...of course [laughs] it was terrible! We got out of the store and got the doors open the best we could. And, of course, it went into the other buildings too, you know, we weren’t alone [laughs] and, finally the funeral parlor came up and I don’t know what Bill McPeters, but they did something that, uh, uh, helped calm it down, but it was, for *days* you couldn’t come in here. [laughs] But he was a good chief, I can remember him, uh, the traffic would be backed up out

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here, well he’d get out and direct traffic and you don’t see that today, but [laughs] uh, that tear gas was something else! [laughs] I don’t see how anybody can resist stopping or doing what anybody says when somebody says when they’re going to shoot tear gas at you! [laughs] Oof! Oh, I still remember it! It...it really takes you breath. Uh...I did those portraits back there.

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That’s...my great-grandfather. Uh...Andrew Jackson Borroum. And that’s my grandfather there, Alexis Borroum. And then that’s my father, Cornelius Borroum. They all called him “Colonel” because, uh, well he and his dad both, were real highly interested in politics. [laughs] We used to have a sign up here that says “This is Bilbo Country.” My grandfather was a great believer in Bilbo [laughs]. He could do no wrong. [laughs] And, uh, how we got into the cooking

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business, *that’s* what, that was how, why I asked them, that, uh, I couldn’t remember exactly at that moment. What happened was the rules and regulations changed...on the soda fountain. And, uh, they came up from Jackson, the Health Department send a representative, and, uh, she did *not* understand how it functioned, but she had us go buy thermometers...it looked like a

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porcupine by the time we stuck all those thermometers in there. And, uh, I tried to explain to here how it worked, but...that didn’t work. And so...so then, uh, so she says, “well, you’re going to have to close the soda fountain anyway.” And I says, “What do mean, ‘*close* the soda

fountain?”” And I says, “The state uses us for tourism,” I says, “you can’t close the soda fountain.” Well, she, she kind of convinced me she could. And, uh, she said, well I says, “well,

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that’s not going to work.” So I called the governor’s office, and, uh I had no idea who I talked to, but whoever I talked to knew about the store and said, “Oh, you can’t close the soda fountain!” And I says, “Well, they *are*,” and, uh, I says, “it’s not that it, it doesn’t get an A grade, you know, it’s not the grade, the grade’s fine, they say they don’t have licenses for soda fountains any more.” Well...we ended up being a “bar and grill.” [laughs] And we had to take

30:00

part of the pharmacy, because, we had tried to buy another building that we could add on to, but that...they didn’t want to sell it. So we had to take part of the pharmacy, and make a kitchen out of it. We didn’t intend to use it, we were just going to...stock it, and, you know, do our own thing... Well, by the time we got through, we had so much money invested in that small area back there, it was unbelievable, and we could not satisfy that lady on the number of sinks. How

30:30

many sinks do we have? One, two, three...four, five...six, seven sinks...and hopefully that was enough. Uh, but anyway, we got our license and I meant to look at it the other day to see if it still says “bar and grill” but I don’t know that it says anything, except that we passed.

30:46

Kate Wiggins:

So you had to start serving food?

30:48

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, that’s, that’s, and that’s how I got Debbie, because I, and you have to go to continuing education too. And see and I go to continuing education on pharmacy, I really didn’t want to go

31:00

to it on cooking...and besides, I’m not that great a cook. And I didn’t want to be a great cook! [laughs]

But Debbie likes to cook and that’s, that’s how, uh, she got here. Uh, and I hadn’t thought about that in quite a few years, but that was really it. And, uh, we brought the booths down from upstairs and had them recovered, uh, of course, we had the stools and, uh...uh, the tables. We

31:30

put new tops on some, and, uh, recovered the chairs. And so, uh, as it, as it...grew we needed more tables and more tables... Now we need more space! [laughs] But that’s not, it’s not going to, frankly, happen. And I don’t know, I think about a place down in Oxford, when I was going to school down there...you went in there and you sat on barrels and you ordered hamburgers and it was just a, you might call, some people might call it a hole in the wall, but it was always full of

32:00

people. And then they moved uptown and got all fancied, and it wasn’t near as nice as the other way. [laughs] So, I says, you know, you can, uh, there’d have to be a point there where you’d have to think about it before you move.

32:14

Kate Wiggins:

What was that place called?

32:15

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I *cannot* remember...to save my soul! I kept trying to remember the other day, somebody else asked me if I could remember, they couldn’t either, uh, but, uh, it was just right outside the

32:30

campus. And, uh, it wasn’t on the square...it was just a little off the square. But, uh, anyway, you sat on barrels, it was v-very crude, but the food was delicious. [laughs] And I think that’s when probably the first time I ever become aware of atmosphere...it means a lot. And how comfortable people feel. Like, we had one customer...I don’t remember what country he was from...he wasn’t from the United States. I keep wanting to say Russia, but I’m not sure about

33:00

that. He wanted to know if could he go and get his own cup of coffee...he saw somebody go over there and get their own cup of coffee, well, they did their warm-up, and I says, “why, certainly!” And he got his cup of coffee and sit down up at the bar and he says, “I can’t believe I got my own cup of coffee!” [laughs] Things like that. People like the simplicity. And, uh, uh...we don’t object to them using the telephone or anything. We had a little problem with the

33:30

show case but, uh, uh... And then lots of people will bring us things to, uh...like the whittlers, when they quit whittling over there at court square, they brought us the last piece of wood that they whittled on, and they all autographed it. Well, it’s nice to have, I guess probably in the future we’ll give it to a museum, but lots of things like that. People bring in...or they’ll bring in their grandchildren’s or children’s art work...we just put it out, you know. We got a couple of trophies there...we didn’t win ‘em! [laughs] They’re sitting there. [laughs]

34:00

Kate Wiggins:

Speaking of artists...

34:01

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And we’ve got...

34:02

Kate Wiggins:

...you’re quite the artist yourself.

34:03

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, I liked to, I like, I like...I-I, I do like art extremely well. I...I also like to write, so...sometime I have trouble with what I like best. [laughs] But the pharmacy always seemed to...come out on top. Uh, yes, I’ve done a lot of portraits. I’ve done a lot of landscapes and

34:30

things like that. I did a lot of Indians. We had, uh, people who wanted to, uh, put paintings of Indians in their den. And I did twenty-...eight I believe it was, of them. And when the young man, he, he died young, and, uh, he was a pharmacist...and, uh, his father, uh, brought us back three of the paintings and they’re up there. And, uh, uh...and, uh, the paddles I did for, uh, [Louisville King??], you know, over there in Alabama. However, we sold a lot here too, but

35:00
they’re the ones who asked me to do them. And so, uh...we do that and, uh...Mmmm, I did that mural back there on the wall. That came out of that stamp for, uh, commemorating pharmacy. I had looked at that white wall for so long, I thought, one day I says, “I know what I’m going to do...” Of course all the customers would come in every day to see how far I had gotten. It took

35:30
a while. [laughs] But now people come and take a picture of it, and, uh...uh...we used to be, uh, we used, we used to have a lot of horses. We had a lot of... People would come here from what we call the horse country. And, about now, they don’t, or I heard something about a horse show the other day, the first time I heard it mentioned in years. We used to have horses lined up... All

36:00

these [pictures?] that belonged to other people, you know, and they were beautiful animals, and, uh, but they eventually came and got them... I don’t know what happened to the horse shows, but...probably walking horses was, was...one of the better ones, and, uh, they started making, uh, requirements. And I really...think...the requirements were probably right. Because,

36:30

uh...sometimes they put too much stuff on their feet. You know... But, uh...ah...You’re going to have to ask me some questions, I’ve run out! [laughs] Or, or I may have it mixed up! Uh, *this* is the coffee club up here. Sometimes they’ll have as many as fourteen, some have died lately. And I know how of them haven’t come back, it’s probably, they *will*, but it’ll take a while to get

37:00

over it. Uh, that’s my father’s, uh, Indian artifact collection up there. He started about 1911. And, uh, continued until he died, really, in ‘75. And, uh, we people that come in, we have Indians that come in to look at them from a...I...I...this is, uh...this is basically a Chickasaw collection, and, uh, but we have them come in from Florida, and they’re from a different tribe,

37:30

and they want to look at them, and, uh... I have one pot back there that is a Paleo...it’s , uh, I believe it is 1400 A.D., that I never have gotten put back up, so I’ll show that to them...cautiously. [laughs] But you’ll never know what a [bright?] child did, but we used to go around to the schools and take the Indian artifacts, and...making history a little more interesting. I did not know how valuable they were, nobody had ever told me, and, uh, they were just “Indian

38:00

rocks” to me. I took that pot, and I let 4th graders pass it around, and when it got back this guy was here from the archives and he says, “where have you been with that pot?” I told him and he says, “you have been *where?!?!?*” [laughs] So we’ve been a little cautious about some of those type of pieces, we, we have them locked up now, but I think it’s a shame when you have to lock them up, but you know...nobody sees them when they’re locked up.

38:27

Kate Wiggins:

That’s true.

38:27

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

38:30

But...I found out real quick I shouldn’t have done it, but it was, uh, it didn’t get broken, so...[laughs]...that was alright! Uh, and our pharmacy’s...h-has changed tremendously!

[Phone rings]

38:48

Kate Wiggins:

[phone rings] Do you need to go?

38:50

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

W-wait just a second...uh, it’s OK. I didn’t see him, I thought maybe he was back in the office.

39:00

But...anyway, uh, the artifacts are interesting, peop-, a lot of people come in to see them, and, of course, we have a lot of Civil War...most of it belonged to the family. And you see that survival knife over there that’s in that little sheath, uh, Charles Wilson, uh, is the owner of that, and I don’t know if Charles is still living or not, but he worked over here and then he worked for Pound’s News Stand, and then, of course, uh, he became a pilot. And after the war was over,

39:30

he brought us his wing, and his survive-, his, wing...wing...pin...“wings” I guess you’d say, and, uh, his, uh, survival knife. And, uh, so I guess it’s been about fifteen or twenty years since I’ve seen Charles and I says, “well, don’t you want to take this?” Because he had some sons, or children. And he says, “no,” he says, “if we had had it it’d already be lost.” [laughs] And we

40:00

have a Samurai sword that somebody brought us, and, uh...when we had the...factory. See, we had a lot of Japanese that worked there, well...we got some text books returned to us that my grandfather’s brother wrote when he was at Ole Miss, on advanced mathematics. And it was returned to us. A man, from Biloxi I believe it was, he had a printing company down there, and he went to New Orleans to an auction and he bought all these books. And in going through the

40:30

books he found these that belonged to Theodore. And he rebound them and sent them to us. And I thought that was so nice because he went to such great effort to do that. So we tried to return the Samurai, but that didn’t work. We called the, but now...we talked to two different, uh...Japanese, uh, gentlemen that were here and, uh, one I’m not sure he really tried real hard, I’m not sure, but the second one I *know* he did, because he called us back and he said that the

41:00

family was extinct and that there were so many there that it’d be better off here. So...that’s how we got the Samurai. [laughs] And, uh, uh...you know, it’s, it’s, it’s, we forget about wars, but I guess our life really is centered around wars, in a way. Uh, we have Jesse Kibble Borroum’s sword back there and all of his paraphernalia, powder horns and all that, and Dr. Borroum

41:30

brought it back after the Battle of, uh...uh...shoot! I can’t remember, the battle was outside of, uh, Atlanta. Mmmm, it skips me right now, uh, but, uh, so he brought them back and, uh, uh, we have those, but most of the Civil War stuff are ou-, belong to us. And my, my, we have my grandfather’s, great-grandfather’s, excuse me, journal that, uh, [clears throat], excuse me, and we were reading it the other day, can you believe you can still read it? And he was talking about

42:00

the, uh, uh, that he cut so many legs and arms a day, he couldn’t see out the windows of the house they were using as a field hospital. That they had, uh, very little laudanum left, which, we know as morphine today, and some chlor-, uh, some chloroform, I believe he said, and, at least that is what it looked like to us, and whis-, and, and some whiskey, but not a lot. And that he was going out on the field, and, uh, see if he could find the, uh...help his buddies. But when he found Jesse, Jesse had already been killed, he and a young Northern boy had died simultaneously, and, uh, he buried them in the Atlanta City Cemetary, and, uh, uh, when Dad went up there in the ‘60’s, they were still buried side-by-side. That’s unusual, I thought. I would have thought they would have moved him, but, uh, but I believe that I’m correct on that, it’s been

43:00

a million years since I thought about that, I believe he said that all of Jesse’s company was killed. And...we just don’t think about how...mmmm...man’s inhumanity to man. [laughs] I don’t know whether that’s, uh, uh...Uh, but anyway, that’s where we got most of all those, is that Dr. Borroum brought them back. Some of them, I feel sure, came out from the Battle of Shiloh out there, because he was here after that. And, you know, then you could just pick it up. And, uh,

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but a lot of people like to look at it, uh...this stuff’s, uh... Well, I’ll you, you were talk, when you were, when we were talking about urban renewal earlier, I hated to see them tear down the hanging jail. [laughs] I, I said, you know, and it, it, it wasn’t pretty, but it was unique and it was unusual, and, uh...they, uh, uh, but they tore it down. They tore lots of things like that down, they tore the old Rugal building, that was a magnificent building behind you, you wouldn’t

44:00

believe what that looks like. And, uh, lot of things like that, uh, I thought they shoulda left alone. And I feel surely it wasn’t just here, it was everywhere. Well, they were modernizing, you know, that was...a big thing. They tore the...the colored Baptist church, that was next to the

hanging jail, and, uh, they all the stained glass windows laying out there in the street, and, you know, different families had...paid for them. And so I says, “well, what are you going to do

44:30

with those, you throwing them away?” And I says, “well, can I have ‘em?” So there are these houses all over town, they got a window in it. [laughs] There was some in Columbus too! But, uh, I, I-I, I do think it’s real important to preserve history. Uh, every once in awhile, just for the heck of it, these kids come in, and particularly teenagers, and I’ll ask them something about

45:00

history, what bothers me is I don’t think we *teach* enough history. But...I’m not really, I never was really a history buff. I *acquired* that. [laughs] And, uh, but, uh, they, uh...if we don’t know our past, we don’t know where we’re going. And right now we’ve certainly got a problem...it appears. I couldn’t get over Mississippi going for Donald Trump. [laughs] That, that tickled me!

45:30

But, uh, anyway...uh, and Hillary’s fine too. I think it will be between Hillary and Donald Trump. But, uh... Who knows?

45:37

Kate Wiggins:

So, tell me more about the, I mean, let’s get back to the, the urban revitalization program, that you’ve talked about a couple of times earlier, I think you mentioned it was in the 1980’s?

45:49

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Uh, I think it was in the ‘80’s. Uh, I think it was between 1980 and probably 1986. I’ve got records, but I, it’d take me forever to find it, but as I recall it was in the ‘80’s. And, uh, uh...if Lex might know...when puts that phone on down, I don’t know, I’ll ask him. Oh, I think that man worked for him...that came in. Uh, but, uh, I think that’s when urban renewal went through and all of that.

46:24

Kate Wiggins:

Was that a local...[Camille talks over Kate here]

46:25

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

46:30

Let’s see, I-I tell you, I believe I can date it too. Uh...it might have been earlier than that, when they came through, because I put some of those windows up there in my house...I break, uh, I closed up a...a porch, made a sun-porch out of it. And, uh, it could have been the late ’70’s...but, uh, because I bought those...and we were in that house, we were in that house,

47:00

well...it goes back...I still believe it was the ‘70’s, late ‘70’s. Uh, uh, we moved into that house in ’69. And, uh, I hope, I can’t really tell you for sure about that, I, it’s a possibility, it was the late ‘70’s, early ’80’s. So, close enough! That’s when it was, yeah, you wanted to know when it

47:30

was. And, uh, you know, change for the sake of change is not a good idea. And, uh, and then too, I think, I think our town is, and I think our state as a whole too, has done real well in blending the old with the new. You know, some get...carried away...and you, you’ll laugh, we’ve got a restaurant here in town, I can’t see in it and I won’t go in it, and I’ve got a, I never knew I had a quirk. [laughs] I thought that was funny, that I... prefer to see where I’m going.

48:00

[laughs] I wonder how many people have a quirk like that! But you see, when you go inside, you can see out...but you can’t see in.

48:06

Kate Wiggins:

That’s not creepy at all! I wouldn’t go in there either!

48:10

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

[laughs] I-I don’t know, you know, what’s going on in there, are they having a robbery or something? They all just died laughing at me, and, uh, uh, so, we had a lot of fun with that, with, uh, that problem... Uh, these doors, the doors that go on the cases, the glass is made in

48:30

Germany...and it’s \$50 per square foot, I believe, to replace it [laughs], to *replace* it! And, uh, we broke one, and then we thought, well, I think it was going to come to...about eighty pounds. And I says, “well, I can’t believe that.” And, of course, you have your shipping and all that, you know [laughs]. So it’s going to be right expensive if you broke it, so we put them upstairs where nobody sees them. [laughs] I think that’s hilarious! But we do, we did put two,

49:00

uh...[laughs]...we don’t open it, it won’t work with drugs, you’d be knocking yourself in the face all the time! I can see where they might have slit them, you know...but I don’t quite get that...but anyway, that’s the way they were done. All these cases were basically made in Canada. Or up north. That’s the old prescription counter over there. That’s made out of aspen,

49:30

which is a cross between a cedar and a pine...it comes from Canada. [Phones] And, so, it’s been here since at least...I’d say 1866, ’67, somewhere in that time frame. But all the marble looked awful and we had gotten someone from the monument place to see if they could help us. They made it, really, might, cleaned it up a little bit. And these young people came in from

50:00

Connecticut...that had read about us, in the magazine on the back of a plane [laughs], and, uh, they says, "oh," says, we were up there fooling with it and they says, "oh, you can just send that to a...a plant over in Memphis." They says, "you have to send it to a marble *company*. Not, you know, where they make marble." So, they says, "they can clean that so that it’ll look like new." I mean, it really looked bad. So, we loaded it, we called to Memphis and they said, "yes, bring it

50:30

on over." And, uh, so...in about month they hadn’t called, so I called to see where the marble was, and they says, "oh, it’s soaking." I says, "soaking?!?" They says, "yes, it’s going to have to go through at least twelve baths to get it clean." You can do anything with marble if you go to a

marble place. And when it came back, it looked like new. And it, uh, it's been quite a few years now. So, if you have furniture that you buy, you happen to like antiques, and you get some that

51:00

has some marble that looks bad, take it. And it's not astronomical.

51:04

Kate Wiggins:

You told me a great story the other day about the black and white tile floor, that...

51:11

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh! That's wh-...

51:12

Kate Wiggins:

...you told me that is was a dirt floor at one point...

51:16

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Naaaaaaaah, no it wasn't dirt. It was wood.

51:19

Kate Wiggins:

OK.

51:20

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I never saw it dirt. Everybody had wood floors. But, now, when it was a saddlery, it could have

51:30

been...a dirt floor. But not when it was a drug store. Ah...that wall is a four-brick thick wall, inscidentally. And then, uh, that's sand mortar. So, it's been there all that time. And, uh, but, uh...wouldn't it make a lovely den wall? [laughs] Well, I got off of what you were asking me. Uh, you were talking about the floor, it's tile. OK, it seemed to me like...to really and truly

52:00

be back in the '50's, you needed black and white tile, because it was real popular at that time. And, uh, we tried everywhere. We called everybody. Got on the internet, looking at black and white tile. Well, finally, we found it. We didn't ask him if he had it, we just assumed he had it. Uh, but we had to, but then he called back and says, uh, if we pay for it in advance, that they'd

52:30

get, that they have to order it for us. So we paid for it in advance and Lex says, "Sucker!" And I says, "well, maybe not." And, uh, so, uh, several months passed and no tile. I got to thinking perhaps he was right. And, so, I called him. He says, "you haven't got the tile?" And I says, "no, we haven't." "Well, we'll run a tracer on it." So it was several months later and they called back and said, "Well, we got good news and bad news." And I says, "well, it doesn't matter, just,

53:00

where is the tile?" And, uh, they says, "well, it had been made in China, and it's held up, got held up in imports. The good news is it's on its way." Well, another six to eight weeks passed,

or maybe longer, and no tile. So I called him again. He said the same thing, "you still haven't gotten it?" And I says, "no." "I'll run a tracer on it." So about six or seven weeks later he called

53:30

back, says, "I found it." Says, "it's in Mexico." Says, "China sent it to Mexico and it's held up in imports." So, we got the s-, tile [laughs]. It's not real good tile, it's not like American tile would be, but it is black and white. And so, we decided that maybe we ought to order some extra. So we've got an extra supply upstairs in case we ever need it. [laughs] And we've used some of it, because if you have to repair, or if you get a leak or something, you have to take it up. But it, it

54:00

serves a purpose, it looks good, and it really impresses people. [laughs] Particularly those...that are much younger than I am. And, uh, uh, but, uh, it was funny. Anyway, I didn't lose my money. I *have* lost money, being like that, but I didn't lost that. [laughs]. But, I don't know, sometimes you just have to take a chance.

54:24

Kate Wiggins:

Which you did!

54:25

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

54:30

And that's the way I look about...well, for instance Roscoe Turner is from here. A great pilot. but as a kid, he was always taking chances. And they kinda looked at him as kinda wild. He drove a T-Model Ford up the courthouse steps. But look what he did, and, you know, he's in the hall of,

55:00

aviation hall of – what is that called? Uh... gosh, I haven't thought about that in many a year. Anyways, it's a hall of fame. And uh, so he did a lot. And he broke more records than anybody else. But you know, you've got to have some that are willing to take a chance.

55:12

Kate Wiggins:

What’s the biggest chance you think you’ve ever taken?

55:14

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Probably when I went back into time. [laughs] I don't know, that and learn to fly a plane.

55:21

Kate Wiggins:

You learned to fly a plane?

55:22

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

55:30

Yeah, I did, I-I I liked uh, aviation. And uh, we-we built model planes. And it wasn't exactly what girls did around here, but uh some of my boyfriends were all, liked some of the things like that. Anyways, so when I got down to Ole Miss, I was a member of the Flying Rebels. Uh, now, I would not voluntarily suggest that you fly with me. [laughs] I found a sign over in Memphis. I

56:00

paid 75 dollars for that sign. It says uh, I'll have to read it to you. Let's see, what does it say? It says that uh... I can't, uh I can't-I can't. I don't want to quote it wrong. Uh, I think, I think it's, "Flying is the greatest thrill known to"... No, that's not it. [ambient noise] "Flying is the

56:30

greatest"...shoot. Good thing I've got it on the wall over here. "Flying is the second greatest thrill known to man. Landing is the first." It's real important to get down. [laughs]

56:40

Kate Wiggins:

That's very true.

56:40

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah. And, uh I found one of those planes, I flew in one of those down at Ole Miss. Now, I didn’t fly the plane; I flew *in* the plane. And I promised God if he ever let me get down, I’d never get myself in that situation again. It was a cotton duster. You haven’t lived ‘til you’ve flown in a cotton duster.

57:00

Kate Wiggins:

Wow.

57:01

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Or you don’t realize how important life is until you’ve flown in a cotton duster! [laughs] But, uh, uh we kept worrying Champ about it and we all wanted to go up. So one morning, he called to say “if y’all will be out here, I’ll take you up.” Well...after we got out there, I got to thinking, was I sure I wanted to do that? And he looked over, he says, “come on Camille.” And he asks who was going to be first. And nobody said anything, so he says, “come on Camille, you might

57:30

as well be first.” Well I kinda reluctantly went. [laughs] And, and I gotta admit, I never will forget, he got so close to the ground, I thought a branch was going to hit us. I got my, put my, I never will forget, I mean, it really, absolutely, scared me to death. Uh, I got my arm out and I couldn’t get it back in. And, uh so that was just centrifugal force holding it. ‘Cause that’s how fast we were going. He went up and did all those loops and things, you know.

57:58

Kate Wiggins:

That’s when you were at Ole Miss?

57:59

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

58:00

At Ole Miss. That’s when I decided I was never going to be a cotton duster. [laughs] Ever!
Never!

58:07

Kate Wiggins:

Tell me about the Flying Rebels.

58:09

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, you know, I don’t remember a whole lot about them. Its just that, you know, that was after World War II. And you had a lot of young men that came back that were pilots. And it was just a group that everybody got together. And just kinda like a...any other club, it really is what it was.

58:30

And, so, uh, uh some of the boys and girls we were with, that we went out to fly, they took us down there - that’s how we got interested in it. Really is how we got interested in a lot of things. [laughs] But anyway, uh it was uh, I-I don’t guess they have it anymore. I let my oldest daughter, the one that’s the judge, have the jacket, and I think she’s lost it. I hope she finds it, but I, I

59:00

haven’t heard anything lately. But uh, uh, it was a red and blue jacket and it had a rebel, Colonel Rebel, on the back with wings. It was real neat looking. But uh anyway, I-I do fully think that uh the people that were willing to take risks... get more out of life.

59:16

Kate Wiggins:

Do you feel that owning a business is a big risk?

59:18

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh, it’s a big risk, it’s a big risk. Like when we, w...when, uh I decided to go back into time, I

59:30

thought, well, there wasn’t any business uptown anyway. So I wasn’t going to lose much. Uh, but I thought well, we’ll lose our bank account, wouldn’t be able to build one out there by the

hospital. But uh, it, it worked. And uh we were just uh in the right place at the right time. Things all just had to fall together. You know, the...the editor had to ask for the article. The young men had to be here, from going back to Memphis. You know, everything just kinda... like it was

60:00

meant to be, almost. But yeah, I am always uh, and, and uh. We have young people come by, they’re wanting... some extra help. Uh, if they can get out and uh...work and, and get extra help, they need it. And they’ll probably make something of themselves. That’s grandson. That’s great-grandson with Donald Trump’s hairdo. [laughs] He’s, he’s two years old, and he’s been talking

60:30

since he was eleven months old. And, and, uh, he uh, he amazes me. He knows all the dinosaurs, by name. He knows what kind of noises they make. And uh I’m tickled, he had a birthday the other day. And he wanted the coffee club over there to have a donut hole. That’s what he wanted, was donut holes. So he sat up there and had coffee with them, briefly. [laughs] But, uh,

61:00

he is a pleasure. He has a sister that’s older. And uh he comes down here some. She does too, when schools out. Uh I don’t know what Leslie’s, Lexie’s going to do. Uh...one thing that she did that astounded me, but I don’t know how long that interest would last and I don’t know that there’s anybody could stay here long enough for her to graduate from college. Uh, but, uh she

61:30

had a friend...Dr. Cole’s wife, and uh she’d come by and they’d sit up there in the window. And Mrs. Cole would tell her about the animal shelter and all the dogs out there and everything. So she considered her a really good friend. So I came down one day and uh I asked where Lexie was. They said, “oh, she’s laying on the floor back in the pharmacy.” I says, “what’s she doing back there?” So I went back there. She says, “oh, I’m writing a prescription.” And I says, “oh, you are?” I says, “who for?” She says, “for my friend, Mrs. Cole.” She says, “yeah, she’s real

62:00

sick.” And says, uh, “she has a, a bad heart.” And I says, “well, what are you giving her?” She says, “I’m giving her Tums Extra Strength.” Says that’s for heartburn. [laughs] You couldn’t help but laugh. But uh Mrs. Cole died; she had a bad heart. But L-Lexie really misses her. She would, uh it’s a shame she didn’t write a book. She had more little stories that she told, that kids

62:30

would have loved. And, but, uh anyway, that so in case you have heart problems, try Tums Extra Strength.

62:33

Kate Wiggins:

Is Lexie one of your grandchildren?

62:35

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah. Uh-huh. Lexie’s his sister. She’s, uh, ...second grade. They’d be there forever. [laughs]

62:45

Kate Wiggins:

Do you want to sit down? Would you be more comfortable?

62:47

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

We can. It’d be fine. I mean, it doesn’t matter. It’s whatever you want to do. I tell you what though, what created a little problem for me uh, is. (inaudible)

63:04

Kate Wiggins:

Hang on just one minute. I want to get situated.

63:07

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I don’t want that recorded. I was just going to tell, I don’t want that on.

63:10

Kate Wiggins:

Would you like me to pause it a minute?

[pause in recording]

63:20

Kate Wiggins:

Okay, I’ve got the recorder back on.

63:21

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

63:10

Okay. Now, I think I’ve probably told it all. [laughs] But anyway...If you can think of something to ask me, I’m pretty well talked out I expect. Uh...

63:36

Kate Wiggins:

What do you think of slugburgers? Are you a fan of slugburgers?

63:39

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well I, you know, slugburgers came out during the Depression. And, uh, I thought Debbie might have told you that. And, uh, uh, Ms. Weeks and them made it, it was a way to save money. And

64:00

so the men would come in at lunchtime and, uh, instead of calling it a hamburger they called it a slug, because it was an imitation hamburger. And, uh, really, it’s, it’s good. Uh, we had some people that called from New York to want to know was it made out of the garden variety. I says, “no, it’s not.” And, uh, most people like- they- most people seem to like the way we cook it, which is more like the way Ms. Weeks cooks it, which, you know, it’s kinda like, all cooks

64:30

differ. And, uh, ours is crisp and we deep-fry it. And, uh, and then, uh, we have some that come in and want you to divide it into four parts. [laughs] I laughed, I said, uh, but, uh, the slugburger is, it’s good. That’s another thing that saved the downtown, too. When we went back into time, when Jimmy and Betty Hathcock had one of the jewelry stores downtown, and Jimmy came up with the idea of the slugburger fest. And ever, see, people forgot to come downtown, you know,

65:00

they forgot it even existed. So we put it around the court square. And it just worked like a charm. And it really did put the finishing touch on it. But now, the younger people have it now, and they look at it a little bit different. Uh...I think maybe they might need to come back downtown...personally. But it depends on how you see it.

65:22

Kate Wiggins:

The festival, you mean?

65:22

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Mmm, yes.

65:24

Kate Wiggins:

So the festival is no longer downtown?

65:26

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

65:30

It’s down there by the railroad track. It’s not...it’s too much noise, and the gravel’s too hard to walk on. And not everybody appreciates those bathrooms that are on the corners, you know. A lot of things that just kinda contribute. That’s just my opinion, for what it’s worth. I’d put it back down on the court square. Some people complain, but people are gonna always complain.

66:00

And it was just three days, get over it. We’ve got 365 days in a year, surely we can give up *three* days. I don’t know. People are hilarious. Never cease to amaze me. But, uh, I don’t know. But... It’s a, it’s a really, it was a fun thing, we had crafts around it. They’ve pretty well have done away with the crafts. And, uh, I think, uh...somebody else took up the idea of the green

66:30

market. But a green market’s nice, but the slugburger fest uptown was really nice. And, uh, but you know how people are, they gotta complain about something. *Somebody* has. I don’t know, but that’s where it needs to be. Uh, it’s a possibility if its... I think they tri-, no... That was the balloon race that had. The balloon race was nice, too. The people that owned, uh, Comcast were

67:00

balloonists and we used to have it, but that’s, we don’t have that anymore either. I don’t know. Course, you sit on the outside looking in, you see it differently from when you’re inside looking out. And, uh, well, the balloon race really added a lot. And, uh...and they’d take them in rides, you know, short rides going up. And, uh... Even *I* went up. After I said I wasn’t ever going to do anything like that again! [laughs]

67:30

Kate Wiggins:

What was scarier, going up in a plane or a balloon?

67:32

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, that, that...the one that was scarier was the cotton duster. Now, the other’s different, but, uh... I got tickled at the first ride I ever had, Herbert Brady took me up in a plane. He was a World War II pilot. And, uh, he says, “this will be your first plane ride?” And then it started putt-putt, putting, like the motor was quitting. And I thought, what is he doing? I felt sure he

68:00

was doing something. He says, “well,” he says, “that parachutes’re back there,” says, uh, “you might better put it on,” says, “we may have to leave the plane.” Well, I had read somewhere that for every mile up, you had a ten-mile glide. And I thought, well, I’ll wait. [laughs] He couldn’t scare me. He was just doing it...just to be funny. But I thought, to jump out, you know, it looks a little far down. When you’re gonna go down that way. But, uh, other than that it’s a, I guess,

68:30

uh, Herbert was really the one that got me interested. I was already interested in flying, but that added to it. And of course, uh, Colonel Turner coming though, you’d see him and his tiger over here at the Lion oil station. And, uh, things like that that, uh, get people interested. That’s why I

think children should be taken places where they see new things. They might not like it, but at least they’ve seen it. They’ve had an opportunity to think about it. And, uh, uh, and I don’t
69:00

know. I hope our school system changes. Number one, government get out of education. They haven’t been very successful at anything else. [laughs] But, uh, I *do* hope... I asked one young group in here what the difference was between socialism and democracy, and they didn’t know.

69:30

And should that not have been taught? Let’s see. We’re trying to... We’ve took patriotism out of the school. We’ve took prayer out of the schools. Uh, I don’t care what religion somebody is. There, there’s always... I don’t think the, the human race has *ever* not had something that they looked up to. They may have called it various and sundry things, but, uh, you need something to

70:00

guide you. To me. And, uh...then the, uh, history...[laughs] I-I couldn’t believe it, socialism and democracy. But that would come under history, I would think. But they don’t teach geography now, so I’m told.

70:15

Kate Wiggins:

Interesting.

70:18

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Mm-mm... You gotta have the basics...I think. But, uh, I hope what I told you is correct. I

70:30

think so. I’m not sure about the dates...that’s a little not sure.

70:30

Kate Wiggins:

That’s okay. I’m just looking to hear some stories about your experience here. Is there anything else I’ve missed?

70:30

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh, I don’t know. [laughs]

70:41

Kate Wiggins:

I’ve kept you for an awful long time. I hate to keep you much longer.

70:47

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I guess not. Not unless you can think of something...that I can’t think of. Uh, we’ve had a lot of

71:00

students, kids, here. We always try to interest them in college. And we’ve got most of them at least go to Northeast for two years. And, uh, uh...we’ve got some that became doctors, some that became dentists, some that became politicians. [laughs] And, uh, so, uh, uh, I-I, I think, in a way,

71:30

uh, the way we do it, I think we do it, we try to get them. I tell these here now, you don’t work every day for minimum wage. I’ve got one going back to school now. S-She...what did she tell me? She said she bombed out. So I assume she must have *flunked* out. And I says, “well, let’s just go to night school at Northeast, take one subject at a time until your grade point up.” That’s

72:00

what she’s doing. But it, hopefully she will stick through it. As long as she comes in here, she’ll stick to it, because she’s going to have me asking her every day! [laughs] But, you know...

education is extremely important. It’s going to be more so in *your* lifetime and those, uh, below you. But something else that I don’t believe in, you’ll laugh about this, I don’t believe in that

72:30

every child get a trophy deal. Because that doesn’t give anybody anything. And, uh...we’ve had a bunch of Cub Scouts. I don’t know how many Cub Scout dens we’ve had, but a lot. And, uh...so, uh, the last one we had, I think, they got a trophy and, uh, they forgot and left it down here. And I says, “well, I’ll go bring it by.” And he says, “really, it didn’t mean anything. We

73:00

didn’t win.” [laughs] They really didn’t! They were the last ones! [laughs] And I says, “well, I’m glad you realized that”. Because it *doesn’t* mean anything. Well, how do you feel about that Russian tennis star? She took that drug, and it wasn’t a banned substance until last year.

73:25

Kate Wiggins:

Oh, I don’t know about that.

73:26

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

73:30

She’s not... I don’t think they’re going to let her play in the Olympics. I just heard it this morning when I left. And I thought, if it was just banned this past year. And I...I thought, well, I should know a lot about drugs, and I never knew it was...a performance-enhancing drug. But what it does, it gives the heart more strength. So therefore, you probably increase your

74:00

endurance. But...it looks to me like she’d have had to known about it. They’re saying that they knew all along, they just...did it anyway. Well, if the FDA didn’t say anything, it’s not necessarily... The FDA, to me, isn’t as strong as it used to be either. And they were made to be too lenient, and some of the drugs we’re letting come out. Some of the side effects...would be

74:30

worse than what you’ve got. [laughs] And do you know that we’re the only country that lets drug companies advertise drugs? Drugs are... We are.

74:35

Kate Wiggins:

I didn’t know that.

74:36

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

The German told me that. [laughs] He says, “do you know that you all are the only ones that let drugs be advertised?”

74:45

Kate Wiggins:

Well, he also thought the first heart transplant was in Jackson. So he might not have entirely accurate information.

74:52

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah.

74:52

Kate Wiggins:

So he...[laughs]

74:53

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

No, he thought it was in...

74:53

Kate Wiggins:

Oh, right. He thought it *wasn't*.

74:55

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

75:00

Yeah, it *was* in Jackson, but he said it was at, uh, Johns Hopkins. And, and, I laughed. But, uh, uh... He was a sight. We have a lot of real interesting people that come through. We like to sell Mississippi, really, ‘cause Mississippi is certainly not going to get out and sell itself. [laughs] But this governor we have, though, he did advertise on CNN just a *little* bit. It was minute, but it was

75:30

still...advertising. But, uh... We had some people here from North Dakota and they...of course, her husband was joking. He says, “it’s nice to see y’all speak the same language we do.”

[laughs] You know, he was just being funny. But I says, “yeah, it is nice!” [laughs] Uh, you just can’t tell. Anyway, we enjoy them, they seem to enjoy us. And, uh...somebody told us, I’m not

76:00

sure who it was, that we were the, uh, uh, second or third most visited place. And I don’t know whether it was in Mississippi or... It must have been Mississippi. And, uh, I thought, well...I can see why.

76:16

Kate Wiggins:

I can, too.

76:16

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

We have lots of people that say they come *to* Mississippi just to come here. So I think, well, we’ve made a spot. And incidentally, you’ll, you’ll laugh at this, how little we know sometime.

76:30

Uh, the, uh, the people who came here from Texas, they say, “did you know that...” They were talking about why they came, and they says, “did you know you’re the oldest practicing pharmacist in the United States?” And I says, “what?” I says, “no, I didn’t know that.” And he says, “look on the Internet.” So Lex pulled it up. And I’m the oldest practicing pharmacist that happened to be a woman. You know, because you know how they did women for...well, they

77:00

still do, to a certain extent. Uh, and so we laughed about it. And he says we’re also the oldest drug store in the United States, I assume still owned by the same family. And I got to thinking about the generations, it’s eight generations, that *is* unusual. But I think we’ve run out of... The kids are not interested in science. That can go back to the school situation, too. I don’t know...

77:30

But then it could go back to parents, too, you know? They play a lot of... You... Children you may not think of making any...influence on, but you make more than you think. You know, but, uh...I would think, I don’t know how many times, but I would think it would be unusual. And, uh, uh, uh... But... So Mississippi’s got two or three things that somebody else can’t get anytime soon, I don’t think! [laughs] For a while, I don’t know. We’ll see how long it goes. But, uh...I

probably have a jillion things I'll think of after you leave. Don't know how you'll get that put together. [laughs]

78:14

Kate Wiggins:

I can come back another time for other things.

78:16

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

[laughs] Uh, well, but, I think we've pretty well, I'm going to show you that old cash register though, 'cause it's...

78:21

Kate Wiggins:

Oh, OK!

78:22

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

...but anyway, uh... I brought Doc to the dentis and his broken pelvis, he says, "this *hurts!*" I says, "it certainly does!" And I says, "I've never had anything like it." And he says, "I haven't either." I says, "How many times you tell people you had a broken pelvis?" And he didn't realize it either! [laughs] When it's on your foot it's really cool.

[Sirens in the background. Ambient noises from the drug store as they wait for them to clear.]

79:00

Camille Borroum Mitchell, cont.:

It should be interesting too, but where I, the house I live in, uh, the young lady that works on the fountain, her husband has been on television several times, uh...telling them about, uh...artifacts. And he took his metal detector and he found that up there at the house, in about an hour, but he wanted me to take the patio up, and I didn't want to take the patio up. [laughs]

79:30

Somebody will. But he said we got it all around the edge where we have a patio. And, uh, one's a watch and, uh, uh, most of it is Yankee...as they call it. And, uh, uh...but that was used as a military courthouse during the Civil War. That house wasn't, but the location of that house was. And, uh, so that's, I feel sure, why it's all up in there. And I got tickled at the yard man, he said he was going to bring him a shovel, he didn't have a metal detector! [laughs] I says, "well, I

80:00

don't know about that!" [laughs]

[more sirens]

80:03

Kate Wiggins:

Geez there's...

80:08

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Somebody's [unintelligible]

80:12

Kate Wiggins:

[laughs]

80:15

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

They, they do that. But...

80:18

Kate Wiggins:

That's your payphone, huh?

80:19

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

That's the payphone. We don't have 'em anymore, but...it's what we used to have. I got a rotary phone back there in the corner.

80:28

Kate Wiggins:

You don't see those much anymore either!

80:30

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

No. They're not very clear either. But, uh, you see, if you had a, if you had this one, drawer A, you would just lock your drawer and pull your key out, and you wear it. And down here it tells you how many times each drawer has been opened, along with the dust, and, uh... [cash register 'dings!']

80:57

Kate Wiggins:

So that's some of the yellowed paper left over?

80:59

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah!

81:00

Kate Wiggins:

How old do you think that piece of paper is?

81:01

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, back in World War II...[Kate laughs]...and we've still got *reams* of it upstairs. See how they broke in it here? I don't know how they got in it. They picked the other one up and left

with it. But, uh, we weren't, uh, we thought that they couldn't fix it.

81:18

Kate Wiggins:

Wow!

81:19

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

But, uh, we probably could, we might not could do it perfect, but we can do...what we would. But it's *really* heavy. They couldn't take that one out.

81:27

Kate Wiggins:

It looks heavy!

81:70

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

It really is... Those scales up there at the top are where I weighed those aloe papers at. And this is a old metric system. This is a newer system. This is some of the mortars that you use, and we still use some of them. But, glass it better. That came from NASA. [laughs]

81:52

Kate Wiggins:

What is it?

81:53

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Uh, it came off of a rocket they were making. Somebody brought it, and just set it down...you

82:00

know, and it's still sitting here. [laughs] I guess it'll be there when they come back! [laughs]
Except I don't think they're coming back. And that's the weights that you use on those upper scales. And, uh, when the doctors would, uh, take them with them in their car, when they went

on a h-house call, on a house call. So they would have it. And that's how you remembered your prescriptions, later. And, uh, that's oil of citronella, guaranteed to be a hundred years old.

82:30

[laughs] Doesn't work! And, uh...oh, let's see...[just background noise] Oh, hey, David. How are you?...I can get you to do this, if you'd take that off, and straighten up...and they tell me that melts candle and put it on the [unintelligible] and it won't slip.

82:57

Man:

It's kind of raining...this weather is a little bit...

82:59

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

It's raining?

83:00

Man:

Yeah.

83:10

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I thought it was raining, and then maybe I thought maybe I was...

83:03

Man:

No, it's raining a little bit, and then that train comes through and it [unintelligible] that stuff.

83:07

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

It might help...

[Pause in recording]

83:10

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

You see everything in the pharmacy, at that time it was in cobalt blue, or like that...[man speaks over her]

83:15

Man:

...on that stuff there...

83:17

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, you know, you could, you could just staple it.

83:20

Man:

[no idea]

83:20

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Or you mean just push the...

83:22

Man:

[no idea]

83:24

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

83:30

Mm-kay. And, uh, one customer came through and brought a midwife spoon that belonged to her great, great-grandmother, I believe it is, or grandmother. That's how they measured out the opiates. And, uh...you see everything in, in medicine at that time was Latin. Of course, now that

I say that Latin is as dead as it can be, first it killed the Romans and now it's killing me! [laughs]

83:53

Kate Wiggins:

Did you have to take Latin in school?

83:55

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

84:00

Uh, I didn't *have* to, but I did. Uh...I-I...I liked odd things...apparently. Anyway, uh...uh...[sighs] not many girls took, took some of the things I took, but anyway, uh, I was, uh, always, inquisitive. And, uh, you'll get a joke out this box up there, you see that b-box that speaker's sitting on?

84:24

Kate Wiggins:

Mm-hmm.

84:25

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

84:30

Well, Lex, my youngest son that helps me down here, they'd get into fights and, uh, so, uh, came home from school one day, and I says, "where is Lex?" They says, "oh, he's back there in the back." I went back in the back and he was sitting there on that box. We called it "Lex's Box" after that. Oh, he had a bloody nose, he had a black eye, you know, he was crying, and he was dirty, and I says, "what happened?" "Had a fight." I says, "who won?" "The other feller."

85:00

[laughs] That's kind of his disposition. [laughs] So we always called that "Lex's Box." But, uh, you get in trouble, you'd be sitting on that box. [laughs] Kids are funny, it's what they do. But, uh, I guess that's all that's all that's probably of any significance down here. Uh, somebody came down from Iuka and brought us that massive thing, I guess it'll have to go somewhere. Well, I

85:30

found a flor-, found a framing shop, we had all lost it, nobody knew where it'd gone, thought it closed, but we found them. So we've got a bunch of things that we'll take them. And this is something that...I know you've been to Memphis... [Ambient background noise for a bit]...I'm gonna...instead of tearing it up I'm gonna, that's how we start trying to figure out where to get it framed. That was the, uh, at the Hotel Peabody.

85:59

Kate Wiggins:

Is that on the...roof?

86:00

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And, uh...

86:02

Kate Wiggins:

No?!?

86:03

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And, uh...we think that it was, uh, probably during the Depression. That time frame. Unless you see a different time on it...there it is! May the 17th, to the 20th. But, it doesn't give the year, but we think it's during the Depression Era, about 1932...judging by the clothes. And...

86:27

Kate Wiggins:

That's what it looks like to me too.

86:29

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

86:30

...and, uh...but the photographer was Poland, whoever he was. But see how they kept pulling on it, so? We took it down [phone ringing] to get it framed. [phone ringing] [She kind fades away here...] Maybe even one? Who knows? [laughs]

86:44

Kate Wiggins:

That's a neat photograph.

86:46

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

But it-it's, it's...in the future, they won't believe it. But they'll like, a museum might like it. But

87:00

this man makes crosses. He brought us six so far. [clears throat]

87:02

Kate Wiggins:

A man in town? One of your customers?

87:04

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Huh...he's telling us something I guess! [laughs] You can't help but laugh! We've got a lot of crosses! Well, I show you something else, let's show you...[sounds of her moving for

87:30

something]...This other customer went to an auction, he doesn't want his wife to know that he bought all those canes, I think he bought too many. But we sold about twenty of them for him. But, uh, that's why we've got that. And then there's this one...went to an auction...he doesn't want his wife to know...and he bought watches.

87:48

Kate Wiggins:

You bought a lot of watches!

87:49

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

No, we hadn't bought 'em, we just...we just sell them for him! [laughs] But we haven't had much

88:00

luck. Most people asking for pocket watches. They're more valuable, I guess. But, anyway [clears throat].

88:03

Kate Wiggins:

I'll get that.

88:09

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

What is...oh, that's a wristband! Anyway...he don't want his wife to know either. [laughs]

88:17

Kate Wiggins:

[Unintelligible]

88:20

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

You have to laugh. [Kate laughs] There's not many places you can go and do that.

88:24

Kate Wiggins:

That's true!

88:25

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

88:30

It's funny, but... It's a...unique situation sometimes. Oh, and they [laughs], threw Dr.

[Hammerick's ???] clinic sign away, so I took it out of the garbage and brought it down here. It wasn't long after that Mr. Horn's Real Estate, an upstairs room too, his office is upstairs, and his son...is president of...a bank in Memphis. But he's done everything he can do to get that sign, i won't let him have it. I says, "You threw it away!" I says, "*You*, are the one that threw it away." "Well I didn't think about it when I threw it away." I says, "But I did." [laughs] So, I

89:00

guess we'll give it to him. But, uh, uh, it, it tickles me. People throw it away and then they come down here and want it back. [laughs] But then, uh, Dr. [Hammerick's???)son...died, so, uh, there's nobody left in that family, and you know he was such a...nice person. Uh, people would

89:30

come down here with children, sick, on Saturday, or after they had closed on Friday, and I could call Dr. [Hammerick] and tell him what their symptoms were, and he'd say, "Well, you give them what you think, or what'll work. And tell them to come see me on Monday, and I won't charge them anything." But they don't do that, well, Dr. Sweat does now. But he, he would do it, and he would see people's dogs that had gotten an eye injury. He'd put it up there on the chair and he'd look at it with all his instruments, but you know, you don't find many people like that any more.

89:57

Kate Wiggins:

No, indeed.

89:58

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

90:00

Uh-huh. And, you know, he never charged them to work on an animal, he worked on cows, horses, you know, whatever. [laughs] But he was, he was real good...at what he did. And, uh...uh...it's, it, we had some things that happened that were really sad. Sad things happen to good people. You know...[can't really hear her] [Uh, if that's here???) I don't know. [People

90:32

walk in a whoop!] Somebody else brought us that sign. "Friends and families gather here." I think, if I'm not mistaken, they were from Ohio.

90:44

Kate Wiggins:

That's great!

[ambient noise]

90:52

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

That's an old soda fountain...see the men used to operate the old soda fountain.

90:58

Kate Wiggins:

91:00

So that's...looking towards the front door, back to where we're standing now?

91:01

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. And, uh, when you start, when the [?????] from boys to girls. [Hodge?]

91:10

Kate Wiggins:

There's *one* woman in that photo, it looks like. Do you know who she is?

91:13

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah...she's a cashier. Uh, I don't know. They trust her with money. [Kate laughs] Uh...

[someone comes in] Hey there! How are you all?

91:22

Man:

Hey! [Better get it from Corinth! ???]

91:24

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

91:30

[laughs] That's the truth! This is [Theodore] Borroum. He died, uhhhhh...last year, I believe it was, that was Dr. Borroum's...uh, youngest brother, the one that wrote those books for Ole Miss on mathematics. And, uh, uh...Theodore was a jet pilot and an engineer. [He four-laned seventy two for it.???] He's the only one in the family that's ever left Corinth. [laughs] But he came back in [four-laned seventy two??], and, uh, I hadn't seen Ted in years. And, uh, well, I thought, well

92:00

you kind of remind me of my grandfather, when I wa-, when I remembered him. But, uh, anyway, th-this...Dr. Borroum...wrote this, Borroum's Curia, and it had all the, uh, anecdotes in there, it had...things that you could fix up at home to...cure your ailments. He put it out once a month. And apparently he really believed in selling, he says, "articles that are beautiful, useful

92:30

and durable," [and anything], that would delight your sweetheart, he was selling! [laughs]

92:34

Kate Wiggins:

Looks like this one came out right before Christmas!

92:36

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, right before Christmas. And it was so brittle, we couldn't copy...much of it. But, uh, we tried, but, uh, [customers in background laugh over the end of her sentence here].

92:45

Kate Wiggins:

I see a picture of you here...

92:47

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, that's from when I was...

92:47

Kate Wiggins:

...what's this flyer from?

92:48

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

...graduating Ole Miss. [laughs] Long time ago!

92:54

Kate Wiggins:

You were a beautiful young woman.

92:56

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well...gracias. And, uh...

92:58

Kate Wiggins:

And you still are!

92:59

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

93:00

...oh, well, I don't, uh...age catches up with everybody. If you live long enough.

93:06

Kate Wiggins:

So this was an advertisement...

93:08

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

...it was just an advertisement I found upstairs and copied it. Uh, and then, uh, [Jenny's??] Jewelry were the ones that originated the [slow-bird??] effect. They went out of business, so he brought his sign around here. [laughs] So, it's gotten catch-all...

93:26

Kate Wiggins:

It's a little bit of a museum.

93:28

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

...for it all...

93:29

Kate Wiggins:

...in here as well...

93:30

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Uh, this was [logs??]. That was a T-Model Ford, and they cut the back out of the T-Model Ford, and made a truck out of it. And later they *made* trucks. And, uh, but that's what they were

showing...with, uh, the trucks around the square. Oh, probably about 1921, or something like that. And, uh...so they tore down the [Methodist Church??] [There's a loud clanking of a

94:00

spoon]. No, that's the old, uh, hotel, the urban renewal did. The Methodist church too. [loud talking in the background] I don't know, you see that was...the old building, I told you, it's, they tore it down, that's where they stacked the cotton. Which they really don't grew...cotton...not around here. [mutters] But anyway, uh, that's where the cotton was, down there by the railroad track. [laughs]

94:23

Kate Wiggins:

Makes sense.

94:24

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And this was Liddon's Lake...

94:28

Kate Wiggins:

What was that called?

94:29

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

94:30

Lidd-, it was called Liddon's Lake. It was really pretty. Uh, Mr. Liddon, uh, built that lake, uh, there's three lakes. And, uh, they were fed with artesian wells, and he had all this really nice, uh, uh, playground equipment, I mean, *really nice*. And then there was a building up here where you could go get a hamburger or something. And, uh, the family offered to sell it to him for 65-

95:00

thousand, the city wouldn't buy. And you know what they did? They filled it up. I no more believe that ground will ever be stable. 'Cause that, the artesian wells are gonna still continue. In my opinion. Anyway, it was a shame to do, but anyway... [Unintelligible] has

unusual ways of looking at what's valuable and what's not valuable. That was, somebody came and made a picture of the coffee club sitting at a booth. They brought it to us. [laughs]

95:25

Kate Wiggins:

It looks like it was in a magazine.

95:28

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

95:30

It might have been. But they brought it to us, I remember that. It does look like a magazine, doesn't it? It is. I wonder what it was in. I don't know...no telling. But, uh, that's...all I know. I don't know, that's...it might be *me* sittin' there. Could be. But anyway, somebody brought it to

96:00

us. And, uh, [????] artifacts, uh, my grandfather's...dueling pistols. I got tickled that he was proud of saying he never had any reason to use them.

96:08

Kate Wiggins:

So [Louis???] didn't get it from him?

96:09

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Uh, so, [can't understand] [Kate laughs] And, uh, uh, that's a sawed-off shotgun. Uh, it was in poor condition, but it's a King Nitro and it was factory made, in about 1860...'61, somewhere in

96:30

there. I didn't even know they made them. Then somebody else brought that to me. "Our captain is always right." [laughs] I think they were slammin' a little bit. [laughs] But I do get, head set-, Lex is on the hospital board, and he's up there, and that's more than Daddy, when they

97:00

were going to Kennedy's inauguration...and, uh, that was a long time ago. And this is, uh, Vilma Coleman's, uh...what do they call them? I don't know what they call them, but...

97:11

Kate Wiggins:

That's a lot of young men. Where are they? Do you know?

97:14

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

They're in front of the court hou-...well, they're not in front of *this* court house, they must be in front of the one in Jackson. I would imagine that's where it was. It might...I'm just guessing, but I think that's where it was.

97:29

Kate Wiggins:

It looks like...

97:30

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Of course, they would assemble there with [????], they probably had some kind of big...party, and, uh... This is the old Borroum house. It's where the Methodist Church is today. And, uh, the rest of them are just artifacts, and...those are coats of arms...up there. 'Borroum' is Dutch and we

98:00

were in the Dutch East Indies at one time, that's when the Spanish...Acquisition...they took over, they pretty well...took over everything...at that time. We must have stood in, well...to get to...well, anyway, that's a [Unintelligible] up there and a Beverly. The Beverlys were always *extremely* smart. [laughs] I don't know if they still are today or not, but...[laughs]

98:26

Kate Wiggins:

Are the Beverlys and the Killborns part of your family as well?

98:30

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, mm-huh, either, you know, Dr. Borroum's...Beverly Borroum, uh...they were going to Texas. This was in...uh, 1843. And when they crossed Alabama they were attacked by a warring band of Indians, and they were scalped and left for dead. A friendly tribe of Indians came up and took them back to their camping grounds in Oxford, where Ole Miss is, and put

99:00

their scalps back on, using yellow root and slippery elm, we know that today as [Unintelligible] and tetracycline, from the [Unintelligible], that's the family it comes from. And we didn't pick up on antibiotic until the end of World War II, which was about 1950, but we picked up on the aspirin in the 1800's. Isn't that amazing?

99:22

Kate Wiggins:

That is amazing

99:22

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

But, then after I broke my pelvis I understood that pain-relieving business. [laughs] I-I, I

99:30

discovered this...that if I was going to choose between an antibiotic or pain relief at that particular time, I'd have taken the pain relief. I'd take my chances on the infection. But it's things like that you don't realize until you come into contact with it. And there was a young man over here that, uh, uh...they were all going overseas and these pictures were made throughout

100:00

Corinth. And all of them had died except Dr. Sweat, he and I are the same age. That's Dr. Sweat there. All the rest of them died, he made a neurosurgeon. Ah, he made a general practitioner, he made an attorney, he made an attorney, uh...he made a dentist, and, I, uh, Johnny Redding was a, had an insurance company, and [Unintelligible] died real young, so...I think he got sick.

100:26

Kate Wiggins:

So these are all...

100:28

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Oh, yeah, uh...

100:28

Kate Wiggins:

...people that you grew up with?

100:30

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, now this is Roscoe Turner there. And that's our mayor there, that's all during World War II. And, uh...uh...this is a taxi driver that rented a stairway from us, Mr. King. And later, he got his own building. And, uh, this is of the coffee club before they started dying, and lots of them have died.

100:56

Kate Wiggins:

When did the coffee club start?

100:58

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

101:00

Oh gosh, it's been going since I can remember! Mm, now that I remember...gosh, mm-mm-mm, 1930, I'd say. And, uh, they just came in and I got some other pictures of...

That's that railroad train, I did that one. That's the cousins of mine. This, they knocked them all of and broke a whole bunch of them. But, now that we found somebody, next week I can go get

101:30

'em fixed. Uh...that was probably about 1936. So they're still here, Ray and Austin's is gone. This was, uh, [Unintelligible] Drug Store. Two drug stores side by side is unusual.

101:46

Kate Wiggins:

That *is* unusual!

101:48

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And, uh, we're still here, they left. [laughs] I'll set that there...maybe it won't...fall off. I don't know.

101:58

Kate Wiggins:

102:00

I can see where...in...recreating the front of the store, you were very successful...

102:03

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Mm-hmm, oh yeah.

102:04

Kate Wiggins:

...to get it to look like that, and it shows.

102:07

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I really wanted to light [Unintelligible]that up there, might, we, they don't sell cigars any more. And the Dollar Store came into being...a lot of things you just...you can carry, but than likely you're not going to sell them. Because, uh, they do so much advertising. And, that's my

102:30

son that's a realtor down there. And, uh, I don't think I've got anything of particular interest. That was probably an article I wrote for the paper [phones ringing] if I had to guess. They tore down the Lion oil station. Uh...by the time we knew they were going to tear it down, it was probably a little too late. But, I felt we ought to know what was there and why. And, so they will. Uh...and unless somebody write it, uh, sit down, it won't

103:00

be...remembered. These customers whose children are in those pictures, and they're very proud of their children. And they are *real* proud of their pictures. [laughs] And so, I hadn't, but it was just fine with us. This is one of those little old trophies that somebody brought in here, no telling...what that says, I don't know. YMCA. Oh, the reason they did that was because, uh, that

103:30

was, uh, the last time the Y existed. That's another thing we lost. But I don't know... [ambient noise] That's my great-granddaughter, and I don't know who that is, it's a customer's child. [laughs] They brought it in, they say, that's the drug store at the time when, uh, we were a Walgreen agent then, and, uh, uh, [phones] we didn't have all that competition, it's not wise to

104:00

put stuff in your not going to sell. [phones] This is two of our great-grandchildren. Uh, that's the one that's an EMT now. And, uh, maybe he'll make, that's, that's the staff there from Channel 5. Uh... Uh, this is one of our customer's children, I don't know which one. [laughs] And this was our dog that was really the *town* dog.

104:27

Kate Wiggins:

Is that Molly?

104:28

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

104:30

No, that's Sweetie. Sweetie came before Molly. She was mine. And, uh, we used to make pictures down here at Christmas...so she got her picture made with Santa Claus. Lot of children

got their picture made with the *dog*, they didn't want it made with Santa Claus. [laughs] Oh, and I think that was our last Cub Scout den. And, uh...uh, this was the fellow who worked in the yard,

105:00

he was a good fellow. But, uh, this is grandson...proposing to his...wife. June the 10th, 2010. They went to Lookout Mountain, so he...proposed to her there. [laughs] Romantic, isn't it?

105:12

Kate Wiggins:

It is!

105:13

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

[laughs] Oh this is grandson...or great-grandson, uh, it says, "Borroum Drug Stores employs

105:30

Willie Mays, who takes time off to take care of Luke Lancaster." Lancaster, he always likes to play out there in the alley or in the street. That's, [Unintelligible]. Uh, this is my other daughter that's a judge in Columbus, Mississippi. And, uh, I declare...I have no idea who that lady is. And that's my granddaughter, and that's her granddaughter, or that's her daughter. But anyway that about it...that's that piece of wood. All this we're going to have to get

106:00

in here and rearrange it again. Uh...they get knocked around and...we moved that showcase is what we did, on this one. And, uh, but, uh... Anyway, it's, it's just really, I don't know how you look at it, the way I look at it is, uh, where people can come and take a break and...relax and then go back out and get, all over again. And that they seem to remember us, and, uh, all of it

106:30

wouldn't be here if they didn't. And, uh, that tickled her, [Unintelligible]

106:36

Kate Wiggins:

You want me to pause the recording.

106:37

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, uh, uh...

106:37

Kate Wiggins:

OK.

[TAPE CUT]

106:38

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And, uh, anyways, she went to Cambridge on a scholarship, came back. Went into practice with a constitutional law attorney. Uh, a firm, rather. Down in Columbus, Mississippi. And she's done real well, she retires at the end of this...uh, tenure. And, uh, but that, she was going to be a

107:00

doctor... She made real good grades [laughs]. Apparently she made real good grades in law too. [laughs] But, uh, [they, she's a sight], and, uh, uh, she's a...is a, uh...I'm kind like one of her friends. Uh, she owns, uh, this park over here in Alabama. It's kinda hard to...talk about

107:30

somebody owning Dismal Canyon, you know, it's an individual park. It's real pretty. Sometime you over there, it's outside of [unintelligible], just about an hours drive from here. Real pretty. But it is, kind of odd to tell that your friend owns a, owns a private park, it doesn't sound right. But anyway, uh, she does, and, uh, uh, but, uh... Anyway, uh, I guess that's probably all I was...I can't think of anything in particular.

107:55

Kate Wiggins:

Well, thank you...

107:57

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

You're welcome.

107:57

Kate Wiggins:

...so much...

107:58

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Hope you got enough of it...

107:58

Kate Wiggins:

...for all the time you've given me today.

108:00

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

...you can, uh...uh, maybe you can, I know something [phones] I was going to tell you. [Phones and ambient noises] Oh, oh, yeah! I thought they were bringing in the telephone! [laughs] I was

108:30

waiting... Ah, that's some article they wrote...in the paper I believe it was. Uh...somebody do this, I can't...they were slammin' at us [laughs]. We always close on Sundays, and I think it's funny [Kate laughs] and they didn't like it. [laughs] Uh...let's see if you can read this... Uh, this is what the doctors charged in 1900. You *might* like to read it, just for the heck of it, and then,

109:00

you tell me, what they had available for pain...had laudanum, or morphine, you had, uh...a little bit of, uh...ether. You had some chloroform at that time. And a lot of whiskey. I'd of had to drunk the whiskey before I went up there. You think I'm joking? You look at that, I-I, I'd never, I'd have just doctored myself. [laughs]

109:30

Kate Wiggins:

This list is something else!

109:31

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Well, yeah, it is! And you have to really read it, and then somebody else sent us this. And we put them out and gave them to the customers and a...a Baptist preacher came in and thought, he says, "I thought you might like to know, I preached a whole sermon on that." And says, "you could have heard a pin drop!" And after it was over, I told them that I go home and practice what I preached. [laughs] It's...oh I don't know who sent that either. That *is* a good place to send

110:00

it. [child shouting in background drowns her out] And who knows, it might help somebody. Uh... There was something else, I, I-I know what it is, I don't think I've got it... It tells you about a slow [Unintelligible], uh... This is something, we don't never know what to do. All the

110:30

insulin now is coming in these needles that...you just use, and all our customers are bringing these back, saying, "give it to people that need it."

110:35

Kate Wiggins:

Nobody needs them?

110:36

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

No, they, they don't use them. But what, what they do, they use it for a B-12 shot, I guess, something like that. And...[she mutters]

110:47

Kate Wiggins:

That looks like an article about you...

110:49

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

111:00

It is. But it's, uh...I don't know that it's all there or not. Might be. I don't know. I get lots of articles, and...

111:03

Kate Wiggins:

It looks like it.

111:05

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

Yeah, that's, that's not all of it, but if you want it, you can have it. That's just seems...

111:09

Kate Wiggins:

Well, thank you!

111:09

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

I see the other piece of it. There's another piece somewhere. What I'm looking for is...I guess we give those out more than anything. I didn't realize that. That's part of it too. I must couldn't

111:30

copy it right, [Kate laughs] so I'll you figure it out. [Phones] Somebody asked for a copy and rest assured that's, ah, I got it! I'm going to go ahead and get mine. These are books. I believe I

112:00

don't... [ambient noises] Well, that's good! Sometimes that's the best thing we can do! [mutter] It seems impossible. I'm not sure she knows they are... [ambient noises]

112:37

[mutter] Well...it's been nice meeting you, you come back and see us sometime.

112:41

Kate Wiggins:

It's been nice to meet you too!

112:42

Camille Borroum Mitchell:

And, uh, uh, with a lot of luck we might still be here! [laughs]

112:47

Kate Wiggins:

I-I hope so!

END INTERVIEW