



Cal Kinard

Interviewed by Anne Kimzey

1. Father started Epworth camp meeting (00:59)

Kimzey: You said you were 12 years old when your father started the camp meeting?

Kinard: I think I- they said I was 12 but I don't think I was that old.

Kimzey: Do you remember much about it?

Kinard: Huh?

Kimzey: Do you remember much about it?

Kinard: I remember about it before he uh- before he made it, I- he took me and walked down- it was built on an incline-

Kimzey: Um-hum.

Kinard: And he walked down in the woods and he said 'now you see here, the natural incline here where we are going to build the Tabernacle,' which he did, and it's been there for- when was it built, Em, do you know?

Emma Kinard: 1907

Kinard: 1907?

Emma Kinard: Um-hum.

Kinard: And it's been operating ever since, except for one year, and I think that was WWI. I was in the army.

Emma Kinard: No, it was WWII.

Kinard: I was in France the year it didn't operate and he said he always regretted that they held it up a year.

2. Father was an evangelist (00:42)

Kinard: He- he was an evangelist, he just-

Kimzey: Um-hum.

Kinard: Preached when he wanted to preach, and at times- several times, he had him a big tent- back in those days, they would have a tent meeting, you know.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

Kinard: Go to town, get his checks, and the preachers would invite him and they would all get together, you'd see, Methodist, and Baptist, and- and all would have a big revival.

Emma Kinard: Those were the days that they preached fire and brimstone.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

Emma Kinard: That kind of preaching.

Kinard: See they don't-

Emma Kinard: <mumbles>

Kinard: They don't have that kind of religion now, you know, you just go-

Emma Kinard: <mumbles>

Kimzey: Uh-huh.

3. Bob Jones University made film (00:29)

Kinard: Bob Jones up there at Greenville, you know the- they came down here, and the picture that they made, they took all the- all the religious from up here to the camp meeting, they stayed down here, it was about four weeks.

Emma Kinard: <mumbles> [They made a movie, I mean it was a little movie, uh, while it was a camp meeting, connected with it, and they used this camp site, um, as- [?]

Kimzey: As a setting.

4. Born on a farm (00:45)

Kinard: Yes ma'am, I've been here all my life.

Kimzey: Right- right here, or just-

Emma Kinard: <mumbles>

Kinard: I was born right there in that house over there, next door.

Kimzey: Oh ok.

Kinard: My daughter had it remodeled, her and her husband, and it is a beautiful home.

Emma Kinard: And the little log cabin, I don't know whether you noticed that right out in the front yard, [of that house [?]]

Kimzey: Oh.

Emma Kinard: [right there as you come in from Greenwood [?]]

Kimzey: To Greenwood?

Emma Kinard: [Yeah, if you haven't seen it yet [?], it's in the front yard of this house next door, and that was mine and Cal's wedding gift from his mother and father, and so we lived in the front yard of their house.

AK: Oh <laughs>.

Emma Kinard: For 19 years, before we built this house for us.

5. Started farm during the depression (02:06)

Kinard: Uh, to show you how hard it was, the banker at Ninety-Six had taken back a place that the fellow couldn't make the payment, and the bank had it, and it's 500 acres, and I was standing up there and the banker had come along there, and I had come back from the army, times were awful hard, and he said "Cal don't you want this place, it's 500 acres, you come to the bank in the morning, and I will give you a deed for it, and you won't have to pay a dime." I told him "No," I didn't want to stay here, in my mind I was traveling, I'd been traveling <Kimzey laughs>, and I was ready to travel some more, but I didn't, then I paid \$7,000 for it, when I- after I got back on my feet [and saw what it was[?], but in the mean time they had cut a million feet of soft timber on it, and after-I gave them that afterwards, and it's worth a lot of money right now, I still got it, but that's how hard times was and I-

Emma Kinard: \$5 of acre of land you know.

Kinard: I decide I would farm, and- and the county said [round there [?]- the government said well, "if you are going to farm, we will loan you"- I think I had three or four mules- "we will loan you so much for mules"- maybe a \$100- "but you've got to have some-security." Well, I didn't have any land, my dad had owned the land, so we said- the girl up there said "you got any cows," I said "we got some cows," she said 'well you come up here, and me and you- she said "you've got to name them all"- and me...' <Kimzey

laughs> I said “them cows ain’t got no names, what are you talking about” <Kinard laughs>, but we named them all, and I got the money, and I paid them back what I got, but it was terrible. I didn’t want to stay but I stayed because I was the only boy, and just had one sister.

6. Oldest cotton gin in US (04:01)

Kinard: I then [?] of cotton, I had the- I had the oldest gin in the United States.

Kimzey: At one time?

Kinard: At one time, and where I got it, I had a fellow down below here, handed to him, and he never sold anything, uh, mail if it got bent he didn’t throw it away. He straightened it and put it back in the box, and he died, and I had a friend that bought it, and I went down there, and there was the- there was the gin, and I looked at it and I said “Hey, [Dee [?], what are you going to do with this gin?” he said “I’m going to throw it in the gulley down here,” <Kimzey laughs> I said “will you give it to me?” he said “yes sir, and anything else in the gin.” I’ve had another one. I got both of them and then I had one of those big wooden screw presses. I let it go, and one thing I always thought I let go under the [shed [?], was a big old carriage with a- with a dry wall on the front and glasses on the back, and he took that down there and threw it in the gulley.

Kimzey: Oh no.

Kinard: Huh?

Kimzey: People that realize [what it’s worth now [?]

Kinard: I brought- I brought the two gins home. Then I didn’t have any truck or anything, then I took wagons and mules and went down there, and got it, and brought it up here, and Cal then had gotten big enough to go to Clemson, and we had the gin down there and the gin eye, and I said to Cal- I said “that gin is too valuable to be sitting down there in the gin eye, because gin [?] are very- a lot of them would break, or if it was a lot of cotton and stuff, if it ever caught you would have a hard time, so I gave it to Clemson college, and they sent down here and got it. Cal was up there in school, and he said “dad they don’t care nothing about that gin you give them,” said “they got it down in their gin house,” said “we just as well have it in our gin house,” but in the mean time the Smithsonian institute got to heard of the old gin, said they had found two, at the Conin- at the Connin- at the Continental Gin company had one, and said it was no price on it, they couldn’t get it, and they found another one that was beyond the repair, and Clemson called them up and told them what they had, and they come down there and wanted it, and they said well “we can’t give it to you, unless Kinard lets you have it, cause he give it to us and it wouldn’t be right,” and they asked me and I said “well let it go,” and so they thought so much of the gin, the Smithsonian institute, they sent a truck down here to get it, sent [lumber [?], and crated it, to put it on the truck, and the people up there in

Clemson said “why are you crating it?,” they said “well they want it crated, so if the truck has a wreck, that the gin won’t be hurt,” and so it’s in the Smithsonian institute, and that now that gin will be there, and they have a show of plate on it “Given to the Smithsonian institute by Cal Kinard, Ninety-Six, SC.”

Kimzey: So it’s up there now? Have you seen it up there?

Kinard: It’s up there now.

Emma Kinard: <mumbles>

Kinard: But you can’t get it.

Emma Kinard: <mumbles>

Kinard: Wouldn’t be no way to get it, for the love of my money, it belongs to the federal government, and it’s the oldest one-it’s the oldest one in A- in America.

7. Boll weevil (01:09)

Kinard: The boll weevil claim the time when we first come, you know, we didn’t know anything about him, and I was [gin down there, the old gin, where we’d been ginning [?] way up yonder, then [ginning and [?] I fired it up, [was so sorry cause we were down there in the gin[?], and that’s when all this land down below here was in farmers, and the government came down here, and was going to help them, and bought the land, and paid them from \$5-\$10 an acre, and they sold it the government and left, and I can take you right down here, and ride for 20 miles, and you won’t see nothing but national forests.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

Kinard: And the prettiest you ever saw.

Kimzey: And all this used to be farm land?

Kinard: All that was in cotton.

Kimzey: That’s really amazing.

Kinard: And-and they just cleaned everybody out- I don’t know where, some of them went to the cotton mill, some of them killed themselves, I don’t know what happened, and it just cleaned the country out, I’ve seen a lot of ups and downs.

8. In Army in World War I (00:50)

Kinard: Well it was rough- it was rough in the US army, you know, I was over there in France for about a year, and I was doing some training, I wasn't where it was rough, the trenches were rough.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

Kinard: I got back, I don't know why. Somebody said "what's the closest shell that's ever hit to you," I said "well I don't know, but I know one hit as close to here to right out there at that road, if they had of been the kind they were shooting in WWII, wouldn't been nothing left." The biggest- the biggest shell that the airplane carries back then was- was, uh, 3/8, and it didn't do too much damage.

9. Meeting his wife (00:57)

Kinard: Me- this friend of mine had been bird hunting, said he going to down the beach island to see a girl, and said he brought his cloths, and said was going to take a bath here at home, and go on. I said 'well here, I got about 10 or 12 [?]. You go right through beach island, take the [east end [?]

Emma Kinard: Right North Augusta.

Kinard: Right north Augusta, and he said "yes, I'll be fine," said "but I know something better than that," I said "what." He said "you come on and go with me, my gir'ls got a sister, and you go and see the sister, and when we go through...."

Emma Kinard: North August.a

Kinard: North Augusta, "you stand on the corner, and I'll take Emma the [?] and tell her how sorry you were, you couldn't come" <AK laughs> wasn't long before we were going to get married, and he put me up to that. She got so mad, said she had of known before, she might not have married me <all laugh>.

10. Hunting with the preacher (02:05)

Kinard: Doctor wood, doctor at Ninety-Six, and me and him hunted together all the time, as a young fellow about my age, and he'd say "Cal, I'm going to bring the preacher hunting tomorrow," I'd say "yeah, you are going to curse too," <Kimzey chuckles faintly> and he would curse, and I- he said "that's a lie, I assure you I can go one whole afternoon without cursing," I said "alright." He brought the preacher out here. He was a good sport though, and we started way on the other side of the pasture, got further scattered out in the pines. Doctor had a great big old dog called Jack. He kept him up [tied[?], and the decoy, he kept him from it, he'd- he'd sniff at the decoy all the time, and make him so lazy and sorry, but he was good to hunt dead birds, and single birds, <Kinard chuckles> and Doc said "come on Cal let's see, Jack got one," I said "why don't you and Jack just go on ahead and I'll sit down at this pine right here, and ya'll can shoot

anywhere you want to,” I was [peeping[?] behind the tree –now this is the preacher- and that was about closing the neck of the door, the way the dog was going, and [Jeffcoat[?] got about that close to him, and that big old corn down there, where someone had gone through it before, he jumped up about that high < shows with his hands> over on top of the bird. Out the bird come. Doc said “Jack <beep> damn ya,’ <Kimzey and Kinard laugh> I thought I would die, neither one of them shot at bird, the bird flew off, and Doc walked by me and when he walked by me he said “Cal, I don’t know who is the biggest fool, me or Jack.” We had some rich times.