

I'm Mellinee Baker and I was born July 21, 1921 and I'm 80 years old.

Leo: And I'm Leo Baker and I was born 1917 the 4th day of January and I'm 85 years old.

Interviewer: How did you and your family manage during the great depression?

Leo: Well we just made our garden you know big garden and then just well it was we had our wheat get our flour and our corn and our meal most everything we had to eat was grown on the farm. We had hogs, chickens and you know livestock like that. And we grew tobacco was our main crop and then corn and hay and just you know just general farming. And so it wasn't easy but back then things you know things were about like they are right now in the way of you know income. The interest then was about two percent and it's got back to that again. I don't know whether you wanted that or not but that's I think that needs no rating.

Interviewer: Was the same true for your family Aunt Mellinee?

Mellinee: But back in well the beginning of the depression really I guess it started in the late 20's didn't it? And daddy died in 30 so we had to move back home back down to granddaddy's and that was still farm life. So basically it was the same you know the same thing like that I mean as far as our food and all. Most of it from the farm and our clothes was hand me downs when big sis outgrew her's well it was passed down.

Interviewer: Was there anyone in the family that you knew that lost their job because of the depression?

Mellinee: They, she might want to cut that I don't know. Two of the uncles worked on the river and of course that would close down through the real bad weather. But as far as losing their job no they could go back you know when worked picked up or when the weather opened up where they could work.

Interviewer: Asked a question but it was cut off.

Mellinee: Twenty or eighteen I was born in 21.

Interviewer: Okay had you heard anything in 1939 about what Germany and Japan were doing in the world? Had you heard a whole lot about that?

Mellinee: Not at well they were just maybe speculating as to whether the United States whether there would be another second world war. And basically in December when Pearl Harbor was bombed was when we knew definitely that the United States would be involved in the war. But up until then, Leo correct me if I'm wrong, up until then it was just hoping and speculating that maybe there would never be another world war. And it was not really not as much concern as it was until Pearl Harbor was bombed. And that's the only way I know to answer that question.

Interviewer: How old were you in 1939?

Leo: Twenty two

Interviewer: What do you remember hearing about Germany and Japan?

Leo: Well I was 22 years old and mostly about Hitler you know Germany and what he was doing. And seemed like he was causing a whole lot of confusion between the you know between the countries. I hadn't heard much about Japan at that time because I was just a farm boy and I was interested more in doing what my daddy told me to do. And we had a radio at that time but no televisions was in this country at that time. We were more interested in the Grand Ole Opry you know than we was in worldly affairs.

Interviewer: You said your dad got the Nashville Banner every day.

Leo: Every day and it cost \$3 a year. And it didn't roll up on you like it does now.

Interviewer: Did everybody seem to think that we were gonna be attacked sooner by Germany than by Japan?

Leo: Un huh yeah like we just I don't remember hearing much about Japan until they bombed Pearl Harbor and then it all come to light.

Interviewer: Okay for both of you what did your family think of Roosevelt? Did they generally support him and did they think he was leading the country in the right direction or how did they feel?

Mellinee: Well as far as I know they supported him or voted for him I guess because I really never did know too much about you know how they voted. But I guess as far as a leader that he did as well as anybody that would have been elected. And to me it was just a state of confusion that everybody was upset with the war and you know with the guys having to leave and like that. And some were married and maybe had started a family when you know when after they started the draft. And that took place during Roosevelt's administration.

Interviewer: What about you Uncle Leo what do you remember?

Leo: Well I remember quite a bit because he was the one that brought us out of the depression. And getting boys jobs and making jobs for them like the Three C Camps and stuff like that. You didn't ask for that but that was I think a plus.

Mellinee: Didn't that start back in Hoover's time the CC Camp?

Leo: I don't think so but and as far as the war you know and all why my family did support him and I did too because I think he was just as you know as good a president as we've had other than Kennedy.

Interviewer: You were talking about that your dad didn't tell you how to vote. Tell me about that a little bit.

Leo: Well

Interviewer: When you got to

Leo: When I got up to voting age he said now that's the only privilege a man's got that he can do like he wants to. So you vote just like you know for whoever you want to and you don't have to vote my ticket you vote your ticket. And that happened all down through the years and now that people you know in

later years tried to tell me how to vote my daddy didn't do it and you can't. And that's held too I made it fine and it's still that away.

Interviewer: What were you gonna say Aunt M

Mellinee: It was people that would sale their vote. What I mean if they thought a candidate was paying you know they'd give a dollar if they would sale their vote. But that never did apply to us.

Interviewer: Okay what do y'all remember about New Deal Programs like the WPA and you were talking about the CC Camps and stuff like that. Tell me about that.

Mellinee: Well the WPA was that was I guess for economies sake too. It did give people a small paycheck that got on the WPA. A lot of people kind of looked down on it like it was it wasn't too well thought of by some people but it did help the economy. And the CC Camp did too which was for the young men it gave them a little paycheck and it basically for me it was more for economies sake and to help kind of pull out of the depression that we had experienced. And it was we knew quite a few guys that were in the CC Camp and of course we knew some that was you know that participated in the WPA work. And it was government paid government income just not anything compared to what it is nowadays per hour but it did help out. And once you lived through the depression a dollar looked pretty big when you could get it.

Interviewer: What do you remember Uncle Leo?

Leo: Well Mostly just like Mellinee said about that two branches but the WPA was mostly put on the roads is where it was. And then you said something about the Tennessee Valley Authority well now that really helped people.

Mellinee: Everybody was real happy.

Leo: Because we got a stove when we could afford a stove an electric stove. And it was just a great help to and still is and I think it consisted of about seven, eight counties in Middle Tennessee. I don't know I hope they don't change it because it's still a necessity like it is.

Mellinee: TVA

Interviewer: When did y'all first get electricity out here?

Leo: In 1948 now it come through sooner.

Mellinee: Yes

Leo: But we couldn't afford it.

Mellinee: It came through over there at Uncle Dempsey's in about 39.

Leo: Something like that yeah.

Mellinee: Forty

Leo: Thirty nine I believe

Mellinee: Thirty nine I thinks right. But it didn't it stayed along the highway it didn't branch off like it wasn't all over the community like it is now. But we got in

Leo: Forty eight the 8th of December 48. And like it said it had been a real real big help to the whole community.

Interviewer: If you remember any family members or friends working in the factories preparing America for the war effort.

Mellinee: Yes, Leo had a sister and her husband that worked where they were making parts for airplanes and it was located I don't know exactly where around Nashville. I've forgotten

Leo: Vol T they called it.

Mellinee: Yeah Vol T and it was a lot of people that worked there and there was quite a few that we did know but to the best of my knowledge Aunt Laura his sister is the only one that was in the family that worked there. And then they worked at Oak Ridge and then they were transferred to Washington State and it was all connected with making parts for airplanes. And it I can't think of any other factory that manufactured for just the war purpose here you know around our area.

Interviewer: What do you remember Uncle Leo? Did Aunt Laura write you anything or tell you anything about it?

Leo: No not that I remember only that they just stayed there regular they didn't get any vacations to come home and like that. They just worked regular.

Mellinee: Well there was part of that that they could not tell.

Leo: Yes

Mellinee: What they were doing. They weren't allowed to tell parts that they were making and like that.

Interviewer: Tell me about some of the price of stuff that you got for some of the farm crops and cows and stuff that you would sale.

Leo: Well they was all very low prices at that time. Of course the first veal calf I remember selling after we married I got eleven cents a pound for it a top veal calf. So hogs was very cheap I remember in depression days it got down to two cents a pound. In war days you know it began picking up and then on after the war was over it down a lot better. And tobacco was our main money crop in Cheatham County and it was very low price and it started picking up about 1945.

Mellinee: Do you remember what corn sold for a barrel?

Leo: Well in depression days 75 cents and a dollar a barrel.

Interviewer: For corn?

Leo: For corn and a barrel of a ear of corn then was about 360 pounds and it started picking up about in 45 and 6. But now a barrel of corn like that sells better than just shelled corn of course its grinded for feed and generally been selling for around \$15 a barrel. So it's a great difference in a dollar a barrel and \$15 but I remember very well about the cattle they stated picking up to. But back in the depression days you couldn't hardly get anything when the war first started broke out it was all very cheap.

Mellinee: Most labor was \$1 a day if you could get it.

Leo: Yeah

Mellinee: And of course as time went on that picked up but

Leo: Nobody wants to work at any price now on the farm that's an ugly word.

Interviewer: Uncle Leo did you ever worry about that you would have to or your brothers would have to go off to the war?

Leo: Yeah very much and one of my brothers did go for four years and he was in Germany, Okinawa and places like that. And he was there when they had the great storm of you know in Okinawa. And he said it would just pick up blew everything away but their machines that they made electricity with. And another thing I don't think he would want in this but he said they had to crawl you know from after it blowed their barracks away to the safe place. And said it felt them rain drops was hitting him so hard that it felt like it did when I used to shoot him with a BB Gun when I got mad at him. And he was in you know in

Mellinee: He was in the Army.

Leo: In there for four years.

Interviewer: Did he talk about it a lot after he came home?

Leo & Mellinee: No

Leo: I don't know anybody that I know of Ray Smock or any of the neighbors that went they just don't want to comment very much.

Mellinee: You don't hear navy talk at your house.

Leo: Uh huh David didn't even talk about the navy very little does he.

Mellinee: No he doesn't. Now Henry was sick when they drafted him he had to have kidney stone. And he was sick how he went through that basic training I don't know.

Leo: I will never know.

Mellinee: In the condition he was in.

Leo: He wasn't nothing but skin and bones.

M: And being in that condition when he got out of the army he was very relieved to get home and put all that behind him.

Interviewer: Aunt Mellinee did you worry about them taking Uncle Leo possibly?

M: Absolutely because it was quite a bit went on about it and had he not farmed all his life I think

Leo: I would have had to gone.

Mellinee: I'm sure he would have had to gone but it was such few farm people back then. And they needed what could be raised on the farms for you know for war purposes well to help feed the nation really. And that's what basically why he was never called or never had to go and was

Leo: I had to fill out papers every six months.

Mellinee: But if you had a public job and was in Class A you just about as well volunteer because you was gone. But like we said by him farming all the time he was exempted on that and that alone.

Leo: You got that on me pointed right at me?

Interviewer: Okay what do y'all remember about the ration system?

Mellinee: Well I remember the stamps that were issued for sugar and coffee was very scarce and you I believe it was it five pounds of sugar per stamp I believe I'm right on that. And if you had sugar on hand at the time the ration book came out you were supposed to tell how much you had. And they would take so many stamps out and then whenever you had to use your stamp them they would start you had to start giving a stamp when you bought sugar. And coffee was very scarce and I can't remember I don't think it was rationed was it Leo?

Leo: I don't think so.

Mellinee: I mean you didn't have to have a stamp but good nylon hose was just about a thing of the past because that went in for the parachutes the nylon went in for the use of making the parachutes and like that. And of course you didn't get a lot of shoes like they do now automobile tires were rationed and gas was rationed and I don't believe there's anything else. Items were scarce there was a lot of we didn't have access to bananas fresh fruit like we do now due to the lack of transportation or the getting to the groceries. Of course we didn't have the money to buy it if it had been real plentiful. But one thing I remember very distinctly was pineapple canned pineapple it was just it was a treat to get a hold of here in the country now it might have been a little bit more plentiful in the larger grocery stores in town. But that was something that was hard to get a hold of.

Interviewer: Was it hard to deal with the rationing or was it just understood it was something you had to go through? Did you have to I mean did it hurt life a lot?

Mellinee: No it didn't hurt life a lot you just didn't have maybe so much sweets with the sugar rationing. And you was very at canning time I think you know preserving was when we had more difficulty with that than it was with just everyday life. Because the farm people you know did a lot of canning and

making your preserves and like that. And that's when you really felt the sting of a shortage of sugar. But we all lived through it and I guess maybe just as well off as we would if we'd had the sugar like we do now. But it was something you had to adjust to and you had to learn to they had a slogan "Make it do", let's see "Use it up and wear it out make it do or do without." And that was the slogan that

Leo: And it was pretty well practiced too.

Mellinee: And it I you know you heard that just a lot and sometimes people would complain about it but once you had a boy in service or a brother in service you felt like that what we were maybe short of here at home maybe it was helping the soldier boys. There was I guess that's back when we had shortage of cigarettes too wasn't it?

Leo: I think it was.

Mellinee: But that didn't bother us.

Leo: I couldn't afford it I rolled my own.

Mellinee: But as far as the sugar and the clothes we you know we made it alright. We might had could used a little bit more of the sugar that was really I guess our main things because we didn't have a car and the gas and the tires wasn't any problem to us. It was to some people not to us just starting out trying you know keeping house.

Interviewer: Uncle Leo you said some of the merchants in the city weren't quite fair about the way they were handing out the rations.

Leo: Yeah

Interviewer: Tell me about that.

Leo: Well they just had showed partiality which was seemed like in everything. And then the gas see the ones that had tractors that burned gas they needed a certain amount of gas to finish up their crops. And I knew a few farmers they just flat didn't let them have any and one in particular but that guy went to the top of it and he got gas.

Mellinee: You could go to the rationing board and ask for more gas and tell them you know explain to them why you need it and a lot of times they would issue you enough to save your crop. But it you know they you had to be pretty conservative with it.

Interviewer: When y'all got married in 1941 right before the war in November y'all were telling me how you bought 100 pounds of sugar Uncle Leo. Tell me that story y'all two tell me that story about what happened when the rationing started happening.

Leo: Well it was just a few days you know that they bombed Pearl Harbor after we married. And they went from that and started rationing in the spring. And we had bought 100 pound of sugar and when we started keeping house. And the demonstration lady said we should take it back to the store but we had it and we wasn't that patriotic.

Mellinee: Well what they did when they issued the rationing book they took the stamps out for the amount of sugar that we had. So in the long run it all

Leo: Added up to the same thing.

Mellinee: Same thing and it we just told them as near as we could the amount of sugar we had on hand and they took that many food sugar stamps.

Leo: We didn't have no idea there was gonna be ration when we bought the sugar.

Interviewer: Was there anything else like that that y'all bought when you got married that you didn't know was gonna be rationed.

Leo: Not that I know of.

Mellinee: No because see we had no need for gas or tires and as far as I know and of course by us having our cows you know we had no problem getting butter. There was I guess at different times maybe a shortage of some things I don't know that really I don't know that I ever heard of anybody here in the country because just about everybody you know had their own pork. And a lot of people had their cows and that away we were you know

Leo: Had two milk cows at the time and you know we was well of with milk and butter and hogs and.

Mellinee: The sugar was our main things you know that we dealt with in being rationed. But we did not suffer from it. The bees came out to substitute honey for syrup in your recipes and cut back on the sugar and that would stretch the use of your sugar some.

Interviewer: Do you remember the scrap drives to collect the iron and aluminum and things like that?

Mellinee: Yes

Interviewer: Did y'all participate in those?

Mellinee: What we could we did. We never did have much aluminum or scraps either that we could turn in but you know if we could we did it.

Interviewer: Okay there was a big push for the war bonds during the war. Tell me about if y'all were able to afford any and do you remember any of the programs that they would put on to promote buying war bonds?

Mellinee: Well we were not financially able to buy war bonds. But I do know quite a few that especially bought bonds for their children. And there were different programs especially in the cities. Now I don't recall a program here in this community to promote the sale of war bonds. But it was always before people and the reminder of buying the war bonds and it was a lot of mothers I'm thinking that would save some of them called it their egg money. And would keep on until they saved up enough until they could get you could get a small amount as a \$25 war bond. And it was a lot of mothers that participated in that and some that were more financially ably than others would just right out buy war bonds. But it was something that was before the public at all times you know the sale of war bonds.

Interviewer: Do you have anything to add to that Uncle Leo?

Leo: No

Interviewer: Okay the gold and blue stars were prominent in a lot of windows for men that were overseas and those that had been killed. What do y'all remember about the stars?

Mellinee: I really don't remember too much about the stars I do remember that the boys that was in service every home you went into there was a picture of them in their uniforms and it was very prominently displayed. That well mom wanted it known that her son was recognized as being in service and rightly so. But as far as I'm trying to think there was it seems to me like in some of the homes in the windows they would display the American flag at different times or practically all the time that the boys were in service. And can we say anything about the church?

Interviewer: Yeah go ahead.

Mellinee: Well the churches recognized especially at the close of the war that the boys that had lost their lives there was memorials held at the different churches in memory of the boys that had given their lives for the country. And that was well it was a very touching moment for all of us because the community as a whole was very closely related or a very close nit community maybe I should say. And that once a boy lost his life it was felt by just well the whole the black and white in the communities and it was something that you know you were aware of. And it was very sad to everybody when the word came that one of our boys was missing in action and it was something that well I guess the people were to some extent you know pretty patriotic about that.

Interviewer: Do you remember anything about them receiving word? Did someone come in uniform or was it just informed by telegram so you remember any of that?

Leo: Seemed like somebody come.

Mellinee: I believe

Leo: From the army.

Mellinee: It they usually it was if I'm not badly mistaken it was some it could have been Leo some of the former World War II veterans brought the word to them.

Leo: I ain't sure about that.

Mellinee: And I believe at different times they would get notices through mail didn't they? A boy missing in action now that was heart wrenching for that word to come. And I know in particular there was a boy at Neptune and he was the only son that well the only child period and he was missing in action for many many months. And his dad lived right next door to the post office he met that mail carrier every morning from the time they got the word that that boy was missing until they got word that he was alive. That he had been captured and was held prisoner and that they had met that mail because that's where the letters came on that mail carrier or mail bus whatever you want to. And he met that mail bus every morning and they went through that mail as quick as they could to see if they had gotten word from that boy. And I really don't remember how long he was missing in action but he was a prisoner of

war. And we did know several boys that were prisoners of war and it that was a very tying experience for the family and for the people of the community because you just hated to hear of anything like that. And some of it

Leo: they would send the bodies back.

Mellinee: Yeah they did they would send if they were killed in action the bodies came back.

Interviewer #2: Did that boy in particular make it back?

Mellinee: Oh yes and now we do have a boy being captured or losing his life it was very it was a traumatic experience for the entire community.

Interviewer: Did y'all lose a lot of friends personal friends?

Leo: Yeah

Mellinee: We lost several.

Leo: Roy Hicks

Mellinee: His body Roy's body was never brought home. They and it of course it's some of them buried at the veterans' cemetery in Nashville.

Leo: Hannah Gupton's boy.

Mellinee: Yes we knew several that was

Leo: Personal friends and it done something to you every time you heard about it. It made you want to volunteer.

Mellinee: It was heartbreaking heartbreaking.

Interviewer: Okay did y'all have telephone or radio service during the war?

Mellinee: We had radio we didn't have telephone in fact we didn't have telephone available through this area. I don't guess we could afford it.

Leo: Just the doctors.

Mellinee: Well we couldn't get it run you know the lines run. But we did have radio and I guess we were taking the paper at that time I'm pretty sure we were because it wasn't nearly as expensive as it is now.

Interviewer #2: How much did it cost?

Mellinee: My gosh I don't know about 12, \$18 a year?

Leo: It wasn't that

Mellinee: It wasn't that high I don't think maybe 10.

Leo: Its 112 now.

Mellinee: To be honest I can't remember the exact price of that possible \$10, eight to ten dollars a year.

Interviewer: Did you get most of the news out of the paper or from the radio?

Mellinee: More of the news concerning the war on the radio because we well it was just easier to listen to it than it was to read it. But if it was anything concerning Cheatham County any of the boys missing in Cheatham County or anyone that we knew. And the little county paper of course carried more on that than the Nashville paper did but most of it was we usually tried to hear the news on the radio.

Interviewer: Were you or do you know anybody that was ever scared during that time to get telegrams because of the news that was usually carried in telegrams?

Mellinee: Well I think most parents lived in fear of that telegram coming to their door. And I can't I never had a personal experience with anybody that did get the did get a telegram. But like I said I think most parents lived in fear of that telegram coming. But like I said I didn't have a personal experience of anybody getting.

Interviewer: How often were y'all able to write letters to people that were overseas or that were in service?

Mellinee: Well anytime that you wanted to you had freedom to do that. And I know well especially mothers would write every week to their sons and we always tried to stay in touch well the ones in the family and some of our friends. Maybe not as regular as we did with the family members but we always stayed in touch an knew pretty much about where they were and what branch well we knew what branch of service they were in. But we stayed in touch with them and was always glad to get a letter from them to you know that letter let us know they were still there.

Interviewer: Okay Uncle Leo take me though a typical day during the war on the farm.

Leo: Well it was a long day we would get up right at 5 o'clock and work on through and we would get in the bed oh maybe 9 o'clock at night or maybe 10. That was a but on the farm we always had a long day and whenever the weather was fitting to work we had work that we had to do and just everybody tried to you know sacrifice all they could.

Mellinee: Didn't complain about what food you had.

Leo: No whatever was on the table taste mighty good when you got there.

Interviewer: Okay Aunt Mellinee what do you remember about the normal days?

Mellinee: Well it was we didn't have a lot of modern equipment that we have nowadays. And a lot of it was really back backbreaking jobs I would say, it was labor. And well our part was you know dealing with the crops. Raising the crops and harvesting the crops and like that and it we didn't have the equipment the tractors and the equipment that we have nowadays. And it was just made a long day and as far as

the food was concerned you know we grew a lot of our vegetable well practically all the vegetables that we had. And had our own milk butter and meat and lard that we used and there wasn't just a lot you know that we had to depend on the grocery stores that we used what we had at home as far as food was concerned. And it was just well things was the work was harder because of the fact that we didn't have the tractors and the equipment that have nowadays.

Interviewer: Did you help Uncle Leo a lot on the farm or did you have stuff you had to do around the house?

Mellinee: Well I helped on the farm quite a bit it especially well in setting tobacco and stripping tobacco and tending to the cows.

Leo: Cutting wheat

Mellinee: That's a good one. And of course the garden the vegetable garden the biggest portion of that was he did the plowing of it and the rest of it was basically left up to me.

Leo: And she over done it.

Mellinee: And I always tried to can what I could of the vegetables save what I could of the vegetables like that. But well like I said on the tobacco I helped with that what I could with that and as far as the other crops he had corn and wheat. I usually wound up with most of well all the cooking. If he had hands it was understood that they were gonna eat here and I was Chief, cook, and bottle washer.

Interviewer: If that's a normal day can you remember one day that was just really odd that was really different? Can you remember a specific day when something just happened totally out of the ordinary that never happened?

Mellinee: Yeah but I'd rather not tell it. I'll tell you one thing that was truly a blessing to me. When we got to where I didn't have to go down under the hill and pack all the water that I used here at the house now that was modern convenience when we got a cistern. But one particular day I don't want to tell where we got into cutting the wheat.

Leo: Well tell it I thought it was funny. My leg stayed sore for three or four days.

Mellinee: Well we'll tell that off camera. But not that I can't think of anything really outstanding that we had quite a few happenings on the farm I'll put it that way but anything in particular. It was do you want me the day that we got electricity was truly a blessing for me.

Leo: The milk truck started then too.

Mellinee: Yeah it sure did.

Leo: The 8th of December.

Mellinee: But that's one of the blessing I think that we truly have had on the farm.

Interviewer: You got the milk and the electricity on the same day?

Mellinee: On the same day uh huh.

Interviewer: Did you know of anybody in your neighborhood in the community here that you didn't think that they were being loyal to the cause to America?

Leo: I'd really rather not answer that because most everybody was loyal.

Mellinee: We were not aware of anybody that wasn't. Wasn't anybody I'm sure that wanted to see their son or their husband go in service. But I don't call that disloyal because that

Interviewer: Do you remember anybody that claimed for religious reasons or otherwise they couldn't serve in the area here?

Mellinee: I have heard of it but I'm not familiar with it.

Interviewer: Were you proud to be in American during those years?

Leo: I still am.

Interviewer: Looking back on those years a lot of people from your generation would call it the best years of their lives. How do y'all feel about that?

Leo: We don't war no time peace is our way of life. It might had to happen to have peace at time the way I see it but I rather.

Mellinee: When you put it in dollars and cents it's not worth it.

Leo: Nobody's life is worth the money part we can do a lot a lot of money everybody don't have to have a bank full of money.

Mellinee: Farm prices advanced alright but I still say it wasn't worth the price that the boys paid. Because I think a person's life can't be put in dollars and cents. But as far as the economy, the economy had risen but it could have done that without war too I'm hoping. I don't know I think it could have now I'm not that smart.

Interviewer: Were you surprised the way people came together during the war and helped each other out or was that nothing new out here?

Mellinee: Basically it well like Leo said about the wheat ration and all people worked together on different things community projects well I won't say building a barn was a community project that would be a personal project. But they you know they were willing to help one another I think.

Leo: More so then than they are now. I can tell a difference in church groups since last fall you know when Septembers 11th happened. That's bringing in people together more but they always ought to stayed together.

Interviewer: Are the same sort of feelings that people are having about September 11th similar to the way that y'all reacted and felt during Pearl Harbor?

Leo: It's a whole lot alike.

Mellinee: Very closely related. I can't speak for other people but I was totally stunned at this Septembers 11th at that happening. I knew I mean we you know it can happen but you certainly don't want it to. And like I said I was totally stunned that it did happen.

Leo: I can't see anything it's gained by it.

Mellinee: And as far as Pearl Harbor I think we were just as amazed that that happened. Because you know you hear of war but you always want to push it into the distance you don't want it you just don't want it. And I think I think I just have to say I was hurt over it happening and I certainly had much rather it not happened. But it might happen again.

Interviewer: Were the feeling the day you heard about FDR dying were they similar to Pearl Harbor? Was it shock what kind of feeling did you have on that day when you found out that he had died?

Mellinee: Well the condition he was in I don't think had he been a real healthy person I think we would have been more shocked to have heard of his death. I was I was deeply hurt over Kennedy's death because that was not of God's calling. And it to be truthful about it I was more hurtful over that. I felt like that FDR's death it's just something that we except but Kennedy's death was just hard to deal with. Any time there's a murder.

Interviewer: How did you feel about it Uncle Leo?

Leo: Real bad it was sad. I remember exactly where I was at that evening that I heard about it.

Interviewer: Where were you?

Leo: Up in the field up Big Gorge Nichols plowing.

Mellinee: Now that's Kennedy.

Leo: Yeah and this colored man come down in the field where I was plowing Joe Smith and told me about it. And it was in November well it just he was just about crying when he was telling me about it. It was just real sad.

Mellinee: I'm not saying that we didn't I hate to hear FDR's death

Leo: Yeah but he was already an old man.

Mellinee: But the condition you know his health it was not as big a surprise to us as it was Kennedy's death. And I think that really was one of the greatest shocks that we had in a long long time.

Tape ended