

Interviewer: Okay I'd like to start off by just introducing yourself to the camera.

Puckett: Lavergne Puckett

Interviewer: And when were you born?

Puckett: October 3, 1934.

Interviewer: So growing up you said you lived in Michigan for a while.

Puckett: Yes I lived in Michigan from the time I was nine until I was 13. Then we came back down here and stayed two years and went back up there and stayed a few years.

Interviewer: So what was going to school like up there?

Puckett: Well back then it was before they had this integration problem but we still had blacks and whites going to school together. And I got along pretty good.

Interviewer: Did you all have just one classroom one teacher or did you

Puckett: No we went to different rooms in the same school. But we'd go to one room for science and for spelling one for reading just different things.

Interviewer: You were telling me earlier about stamps you had to use during the war.

Puckett: We had rationing stamps and we had to have them for gas for tires for shoes for sugar for lard. That was before this liquid oil stuff came out it was just beginning to make an appearance when the war was over. But everybody used lard and it was hard to get enough to cook with so a lot of people even cooked eggs with motor oil.

Interviewer: Really how did that taste do you know?

Puckett: I don't imagine it was very good. I didn't do it but I heard about it.

Interviewer: How much of things like sugar or shoes were you allowed to have?

Puckett: We could get five pounds of sugar at a time if you had the stamp for it. You had to have the stamp and the money to pay for it all of that. And shoes you could get a pair about every six months.

Interviewer: That's better than I do now get a pair of shoes every six months.

Puckett: We had to a lot of times wear a wire tire around the soles of them to fold the soles on while we went to school. But everybody was doing it it wasn't just one or two. Everybody was having to do that.

Interviewer: What did your parents do to provide for the family?

Puckett: The mother was just a house wife by my father worked for the defense plant in building war products.

Interviewer: Do you remember exactly what he did?

Puckett: No I don't know exactly.

Interviewer: Did he work a lot?

Puckett: Yeah it was pretty steady work.

Interviewer: And your mom stayed home and took care of the family?

Puckett: She stayed home and took care of the family.

Interviewer: And you had how many brothers and sisters?

Puckett: One brother and two sisters. And my dad was making a fortune he was making \$35 a week.

Interviewer: Thirty five dollars a week and that was good money.

Puckett: That was back then.

Interviewer: Do you remember what he made before he got the job at the defense plant?

Puckett: No I don't but he was making \$35 a week then. It cost that by the time you consider everything though. Momma would go to the grocery store and take about nine or ten dollars a week to buy groceries. I'd like to see someone buy groceries now for ten dollars.

Interviewer: What kind of house did you live in?

Puckett: We had a real large house we rented one and it had an upstairs to it and we rented an apartment out of that to my aunt and uncle and another room to it to some of my bachelor uncles.

Interviewer: So you had the money from the defense plant and the money from renting out the apartment so I bet you guys were well off.

Puckett: Yeah we made it very good.

Interviewer: Do you remember how your family was before the war started? Were you pretty well off?

Puckett: No we were just poor farmers.

Interviewer: Do you remember the farms at all working on the farm or anything?

Puckett: Not a whole lot.

Interviewer: But that's what your dad did?

Puckett: That's what my dad did yeah. And he worked for a while as a construction man and Less Hills down between here and Charlotte he scraped those out with an old mule scraper that that time.

Interviewer: What kind of things did you and your brothers and sisters do to pass the time when you weren't doing house work or chores.

Puckett: Well we played war a lot and I babysat some of the neighbors and I'd carry them to the movies and the guy that I was babysitting for would pay my brother and sisters way into the show so I could take them with me too.

Interviewer: So you remember any of the movies that you went to see?

Puckett: A lot of them was John Wayne movies. One was Bridge Over the River Quiet. There was a lot of cartoons back then only they were funny they weren't getting fake like they are now you know they were just funny cartoons.

Interviewer: How much did it cost to see a movie do you remember?

Puckett: For a kid it was 12 cents.

Interviewer: Twelve cents

Puckett: And for a grownup it was 35.

Man in the background: Had Dagwood and Blondie and Pluto were comedies. The Road Runner we used to have him way back Bugs Bunny and Jiminy Cricket I loved Jiminy Cricket you remember Jiminy Cricket.

Interviewer: Walt Disney films.

A man walks in that they cut the camera off.

When the camera comes back on there is a man talking but the camera is not on anyone. Then the lens of the camera is covered up and then the camera goes off.