

Nicole Musgrave: It should be good. So, testing my sound here. I guess just to get started, I will introduce us on the tape. So, this is Nicole Musgrave, and I am talking today with Golden Glen Hale. We are here in Knott County at the old Carr Creek High School. It is July 5th, 2022. This is for the Carr Creek Oral History Project. So, to get started, will you say your name and also your birthday?

Golden Glen Hale: Golden Glen Hale. 6/8/47.

NM: Can you just introduce yourself and tell me a little bit about who you are?

GGH: I'm Golden Glen Hale. I do always introduce myself as Golden Glen Hale because I answer to Golden, I answer to Glen, and I answer to Golden Glen. I've always introduced it as a full name because I fear sometimes if I say Golden Hale, someone's liable to knock me down because they think I've said something else. [laughter] That's what I always use, is the whole name. My mom always called me Golden Glen. I guess that meant I was mean, [laughter] because they tell me that anyway. That's why you get called the full name. But that's about it. I actually, like I said, was born in [19]47. My mom never did tell my dad about me. He found out about me when I was about 12 years old. [laughter] He was in Letcher County and worked at the coal ramp down at Sassafras, Crawford's. Some of the men that were working up on Carr saw me and mom come down to the store one day. They were sitting at a store that my grandmother at one time owned, but a cousin had built a store across the road up near the Big Y. They saw me go in with her, and they said, "How old is that little boy?" [laughter] They told him about my age. He said, "Hmm." So, he talked to my dad, said, "That might be your son." [laughter] I was down the bottom helping hoe corn for my great-uncle. My sister came down and said, "Your dad's up here." I said, "What?" [laughter] So, that was the first time I met him. I did spend a little time with him from time-to-time. Actually, whenever I did my student teaching at Whitesburg, I stayed with him during that time. Whenever I went to school, financially, we were not in good shape. [laughter] Grade school was about a little less than a half mile, probably. They would not pick us up in the mornings with the bus because we lived too close to the school.

NM: Whereabouts did you live?

GGH: Up on Main Carr. Actually, it's about 5 miles from the Big Y, if you know where that is. That's the intersection of 160 and 582. So, it was about 5 miles up 582, which was near Neely's Grade School. For some reason, they would let us ride the bus of the evening. So, we got to ride the bus of the evening. But whenever I was in the first grade, my legs hurt so bad that my teacher allowed me to go home at half day. Then whenever I was in college and going to Illinois to work in order to have enough money to go to college, I applied for a job at Swift's Meat Packing Company and had to go take a physical. The doctor looked at me and said, "When did you have rickets?" I said, "I didn't to my knowledge." He said, "Well, you did." So, I guess that's what the problem was whenever I was in first grade. But then I wasn't a particularly good student either. In fact, to this day, I believe I failed the eighth-grade test which they gave then in order to go on to high school. But they sent me on anyway. I didn't realize at the time that they grouped students according to their ability. I was in the D group. But by the time I graduated from high school, I graduated number twelve in my class, but there were only sixty of us. But

that was still pretty good, I thought. Then I went on to Alice Lloyd and spent two years there. Didn't particularly do all that great. I was in the better group, but I didn't apply myself as much. Went on to Morehead and got almost a four-point the first semester. Of course, Alice Lloyd at that time was sending some of their better students on to the University of Kentucky and paying their way. I didn't get that because I didn't apply myself like I should have. But after that semester, I heard the ones that they sent hadn't done really well at U.K. So, I went back and asked them if they could help me a little, and they did. They gave me \$100 a semester after that, which helped some. I was only making maybe \$300 a summer in order to go to school. So, I would eat [inaudible] and maybe a little cake or something like a jumbo pie for breakfast. When I went to the Dairy Cheer, I bought the same meal every day twice a day in order to survive. I didn't have to order. They'd see me coming and they'd have it ready for me whenever I got there. [laughter]

NM: Well, I am curious, can you tell me a little bit more about where you grew up and what the community there was like?

GGH: Actually, like I said, we were about 5 miles above the Big Y, which is actually out of where the lake covered. But it affected people up there as well as it did the people in the communities here where the water actually is now. We were a close-knit community. Sometimes I would get up and go out to play and mom might not see me for hours. I'd be over at neighbors who were third cousins, or we would be up in the hills. Or I'd be up on the hill playing with my little truck, pretending to have a coal truck that I would dump coal in and that was dirt. I basically played by myself most of the time, even though I had two sisters. The community was really, really close especially around the elementary school. After grade school, I would come home, eat, and go back to the grade school. We'd play ball all evening. Everybody in the neighborhood would be there playing ball. You'd sit on the steps and wait for your turn to get in a game. So, it was a good neighborhood as far as the people were concerned. My great-uncle owned a store right across from the elementary school. So, if we had money, we could go over and buy us a 7UP. I don't know if you ever heard, they used to have Green River, which was similar to 7UP, that I liked. But it just cost a nickel. [laughter] One morning, on the way to school – as I said, we had to walk, me and my older sister. My younger sister wasn't in school yet – we found \$5 beside the road. We didn't tell mommy, but we ate candy and stuff for a week. [laughter] I don't know who lost the \$5, but [laughter] I was glad I found it. That was a big amount of money for me. I always enjoyed the school as far as the games that we played. We played Ante Over. You never heard of that?

NM: No.

GGH: We had a little rubber ball that we would choose up sides, get on both sides, and someone would holler "Ante Over." We'd throw the ball over. If they caught it, they could come around and tag any of us that they could tag, depending on whether it was caught or not. Of course, we really couldn't see as to whether or not they caught it. So, I guess they could cheat. [laughter] I don't know. Then the other way around, they would throw a ball back, and same thing. We would spend our recess that way. We had two recesses, one in the morning, one in the afternoon, along with lunch. So, I guess we had three recesses. I really think that was good because I think in learning, we need some downtime. We need a little bit of time for what we've just learned to

soak in. I'm not sure schools have that anymore. Because I taught for thirty-four years, so I know that we didn't have that much downtime. If you've got a P.E. class or something, that's not really downtime, even though it does help you to absorb maybe some of the stuff that you were taught in the last class. But that was good socially too, to play in the games. We played round-town. You know what that is? [laughter] That's something like baseball. We just didn't have a regular bat, so we got a big board [laughter] that we used for a bat. There were a few rules that were different than baseball. Our elementary school was right down next to Carr Creek. It was sandy. So, some of the older boys, they went down to the creek and dig tunnels way back in there. Actually, it was dangerous. I never did do it because I knew it was dangerous. You may be sitting on the sand, 20 or 30 feet from the creek bank, and they were under you. So, sand is not real stable. So, it could have easily caved in on them. Now, I remember whenever we had the 1957 flood, the creeks were frozen over. We skated on them. As it was raining and the creek was getting up, the water was actually going over the ice. These older students would still skate on that. The water would just stand in the air as they would skate across. It wasn't like regular skating. We didn't have skates or anything like that. We skated with our regular shoes on ice. That was a lot of fun too. So, one other thing was sometimes in the summer, we would – not in the summer but in the warmer days of the school year – we would pile up sand and just jump the sand pile. The only whipping I ever got in grade school was because I supposedly jumped in someone else's sand pile. But me and another boy jumped in our own sand pile. It just happened to be next to the student who had gone up and complained to the principal. But I didn't even know she had. Whenever he was out ringing the bell, we jumped in the sand pile. Getting ready to head back, he jerked us up and whipped us. [laughter] That was what it was supposedly for, for jumping in her sand pile. We may have jumped in it before. I don't remember that. But we had plenty of games that we played. I can't remember any others right off. We had outside toilets. If you needed to go during the class, you asked the teacher. They maybe gave you something to carry along to make sure that you were recognized outside. Well, I remember once, I was going, and I had a really loose tooth. I didn't want to pull it or anything, but I had to go to the bathroom. [laughter] Somewhere, I lost that tooth between the school and the outside toilets. So, somewhere in the playground up there still yet, it's probably a tooth.

NM: That is so funny. Those games sound so fun. Was it Neely Elementary?

GGH: Neely Elementary.

NM: How do you spell that?

GGH: Well, I remember it being spelled two different ways. One of them was N-E-A-L-Y. But I believe generally, it's N-E-E-L-Y now. On maps, I think it's N-E-E-L-Y. But that's just the same as the post office too, was Pine Top. Some of them were one word, and some of them were two words. I was told that at the time that they were making it, they wouldn't allow but one word. The government wouldn't. So, it was combined. Now, whether that's a true story or not, I don't know.

NM: The school, was it a one-room or two-room school?

GGH: Actually, the first year when I was in the first grade, it was a five-roomed school. My

sister had gone to the one-roomed school the year before. She didn't like going to school. [laughter] So, mommy would take her to school. Again, we didn't ride the bus. She would take her to school and stop at my great-uncle's house, maybe, and speak to him as she was going back to the house. My sister would beat her home, going down the creek and back up to the house. So, her first year, she didn't stay all that long and got to spend another year in first grade. My first-grade teacher was a close friend to my mom's. Her dad was the person that got to recommend people for jury duty and stuff like that. I guess he voted right. [laughter] He walked with a cane. He would come to visit. He would hook me with that cane, pulled me up, and threatened to cut my ears off. [laughter] I remember that very well. But that teacher married a cousin after that. Then they moved to Winchester, and she taught up until she was 80-something years old, I think. So, she taught a long, long time.

NM: About how many students were in the school? Do you have any recollection?

GGH: I don't really know. I'd say that probably each class had fifteen, twenty students. Since there were five rooms, some of the teachers had to teach two grades. When I was in the sixth grade, I was in the principal's class. I was in with the eighth grade, I think it was. Then when I was in the seventh grade, I was in with the eighth grade except for one class I was in. We were sent to another teacher for an English class. I guess the principal didn't feel comfortable with teaching English. I don't know really why. But anyway, that's the first time I ever changed classes, was in seventh grade.

NM: The students that went to that school, what were the various communities that they lived in where they came to that school?

GGH: Well, initially it was just Pine Top. Probably from about mouth of Steer Fork up to a little way above where the school is. There was another one-roomed school up in the head of Carr, which was Omaha. It no longer exists, Omaha doesn't, so it's all Pine Top now. Actually, another post office was down Steer Fork, down that area. Actually, probably below the Mallie Fork, which is Mallie Post Office, there was this one called Spider.

NM: Spider?

GGH: Spider, yes. I know that it moved. At one time it was down below the mouth of Steer Fork. Then a little later, it was above the mouth of Steer Fork. That was the last postmaster that lived there. They had a little store, and the post office was there. I know that it used to be in the other place. Because we didn't have a car or anything, so if mom went anywhere, and I would go with her. It would be really hot in the summertime. We would stop at the post office and rest for a while. I was very tiny. In fact, whenever I entered high school, I was probably the smallest student here. Didn't actually get my growth until I was about 14 years old. I grew about a foot in one year, which was strange. But [laughter] mommy couldn't hardly afford to buy pants for me. [laughter] She'd buy them one week, and they were too small for me the next week. [laughter]

NM: Hard to imagine.

GGH: But that's the way it was. Then somewhere along the way, they started talking about building the dam. We were concerned about it, just like people down here were. We didn't really know where the top of the lake was going to be. Initially, we were told that it was going to be somewhere around where it is now. But then they were buying property up by the Big Y and up in Main Carr and on the Betty Troublesome. We really didn't know how far it was going to go. So, we were concerned just like people that we knew who had to move. Then all of the graves being moved. I know that people were very upset about having to move graves that their ancestors had been wanting to bury at a certain spot, and they had to move them. I wonder sometimes when in the process of moving if they actually found anything other than dirt and maybe moved dirt. Because I've dug graves a time or two, and I'm convinced I dug into a grave next to one that I was digging because there was rotten wood or a dark dirt that showed where wood had been. Graves shift with time. If someone moves everything off of it to mow grass, and they don't get it put back exactly where it was; next thing you know, it's moved. I know that my great-great-grandfather's and grandmother's graves are probably not where the tombstone is now. Because I remember them being side by side, with a space in the middle for their baby son, which was my great-uncle that I was talking about. One of them's higher on the hill now than the other one is. He was not buried in between them. He was buried in another spot. So, I know that they used to be pretty much next to each other with a space in between. So, I know that they do get shifted with time.

NM: Well, I definitely want to hear a little bit more about the dam being built and the moving of the graves and things. You mentioned that your great-uncle had a store. I am curious, were there other businesses around the community that you lived in?

GGH: Well, actually, our house was about halfway between two great-uncles. They both had a store. The Pine Top post office was at Uncle Kit's. His name was Kit Carson Honeycutt. Uncle Roosevelt lived above us. Then the people who owned the store across from the school sold it to him. So, both of them had a store.

NM: What were the names of the stores?

GGH: I don't think they had a name. It was just a grocery store. I always said, "Go down to Uncle Kit's store or up to Uncle Roosevelt's store." They sold whatever was needed, groceries. I bought a pair of shoes whenever I was in high school. Actually, it was the kind with a star on the side. I think I paid \$3 for them. Actually, mommy, I guess, paid \$3 for them.

NM: The Converse, the Chuck Taylors?

GGH: Yes. I wore them all winter. At that time, we were climbing the hill out here at the high school. They didn't bring a bus on the hill because there'd been a bus wreck. If you go down to the road there where you enter, it's about where the curve was. Then it came back this way down. Then across, there were several houses down below there, and there was a bridge. So, they would bring us to the bridge. We walked across the bridge and up the hill. We could walk the road, but most people just came right straight up the hill from below the high school. Eventually, they did pave it and start running buses again on the road up to the school. Of course, I was always wanting to come to ballgames. I sold *Grits* whenever I was little and saved

enough to buy me a bicycle to where I didn't have to walk the 5 to 10 miles or somewhere. I don't know exactly how far it was that I sold *Grits*. Most I ever sold was fifteen on the weekend.

NM: Where did you sell them at?

GGH: To people that lived near the road and there were some up the haulers. I would just go up and ask them if they wanted to buy one. Some of them became regular customers and I would take them every weekend. The way *Grit* worked then, I think initially whenever I first started selling, they were 10 cents. I got to keep 3 or 4 cents, I don't remember, and had to send the other back. I sent it as cash, and I guess they got it.

NM: Can you describe what it was you were selling?

GGH: Did you ever hear of *Grit*? It's a newspaper out of Pennsylvania.

NM: No. I thought you meant grits, like the food.

GGH: No. *Grit*, they may still exist. But I guess they sent a little letter out trying to get someone to sell *Grits* and I sold them. A lot of people sold *Grit*. A lot of people that ended up being successful started out selling *Grit* as a child. Like I said, I would save that money. I was raised saving. But I did like to come to ballgames. We probably paid 50 cents to get into a ballgame. I don't remember how much it was. So, I would get out and hitchhike down here. Usually, there would be someone up there that would also be coming to the ballgames. One person in particular would stop and get me every time. His son was a few years younger than me, but he played on the team. When it was time to go back, I'd crawl in the back of his truck, and he'd stop and let me off at the house down at the mouth of the holler. But yes, *Grit* is a newspaper. You'll have to look it up. It may still exist.

NM: I will look it up. I am curious, did your mother work?

GGH: She did sewing. We wouldn't have survived if it hadn't been for her being a good seamstress. Her prices were too cheap, but she did a lot of sewing. We were on welfare. If it hadn't been for that commodity cheese – and I didn't even like cheese before commodity cheese. I don't know if I'd ever had it actually. But I didn't like it when I first got it. But it's an acquired taste. You can't find it as good as that commodity cheese now, with cans of pork and gravy or beef and gravy. I don't remember what all we got, even some powdered eggs. I know mommy, first time we got powdered eggs, she didn't really know how to fix them. So, she just mixed them up and put them in a pan. It was like a pound of eggs [laughter] like a bread pan. But it was good. [laughter] I don't remember what all we got. But actually, I think the commodity system was much better than the food stamp system. I'm sure it was cheaper on the government to do the food stamp thing. But I think the commodity, passing out the actual food items was keeping prices cheap in the store because that was competing with where you bought it in the store. Whenever they switched to food stamps, there was no longer any competition, so prices started going up. They said, "Well, it's the end of the month, prices go up." So, there was inflation. So, if you had any money, it wouldn't buy as much as it would before. A nickel pop became 15 cents. [laughter] But that's the economy for you. We're facing it right now.

NM: Well, you started talking about the dam being built. Do you remember first hearing about the fact that they wanted to build the dam?

GGH: What was that now?

NM: When did you first hear about them wanting to build the dam and put the lake in?

GGH: I probably heard about it at school. I don't know, maybe at home because people would come and talk to my grandma. That's where we lived, by the way, was with my grandma. She was basically bedfast. She was housebound, let's put it that way. People would come and talk to her a lot. She had a sixth sense about her that she could figure things out pretty easy. [laughter] I remember one person coming to visit. After she left – my mom's name was Pollyanne – grandma said, "Pollyanne –" and she named the person – "Her comb's getting red." I didn't understand what that was. But it meant she was looking for another man. She was married and had children. It wasn't two weeks until she left with another man. So, grandma could figure things out like that. But I don't know if it's from talking or what.

NM: What was her name, your grandmother?

GGH: Huh?

NM: What was your grandmother's name?

GGH: Dosh, D-O-S-H-A is how it was spelled. But everybody called her Dosh or Doshi. I've done a lot of genealogy too, and a lot of the census had it spelled wrong. Some of them spelled D-I-S-H-A. Actually, it was just because the census-taker, their A and their Os looked a lot alike. But whoever transcribed it thought it looked like an A, so they had it spelled that way. There were a few that was D-O-S-H-I-E. I don't know other ways. But anyways, sometimes it's misspelled. Ancestry is an interesting thing to study. I've enjoyed it from the time I was little. Actually, grandma taught me how to figure relationships whenever I was just young. Most of the people around here don't really know how to figure relationships. But she taught me whenever I was young. I was in a graduate class at one point where the teacher came from Morehead. We got in, and he already had this stuff up on the board. I looked at it. I pretty much knew what it was whenever I saw it. But other students in the class, most of them were teachers. He pointed to a person on one side and a person on another side and said, "What's the relationship of these people?" I looked at it, and I said, "Second cousin once removed." Everybody looked at me like I was crazy. He was surprised because I was right. People don't understand that once removed thing, but if it only moves on one side, that's once removed. If it moves on both sides, then it's a full cousin or whatever. So, if you go back to your common ancestor, if you're trying to figure relationship, go back to the common ancestor. From there, the first stage are siblings. Next stage is first cousins. The next stage is second cousins and so on. But if you're from one stage to the second stage, then it's like first cousins once removed or second cousins once removed. It can go. I've got cousins in Georgia and Florida that are first cousins four times removed. [laughter]

NM: Well, yes, I feel like I always get tripped up on that too. So, I think now it is a little clearer having you explain it that way. That makes sense. Well, you said that you remember hearing talks about the dam being built because people come over and talk to your grandmother. About how old were you when you first started hearing chatter?

GGH: Well, it would have been probably the early [19]60s because I don't remember exactly when they started. It was probably in the early [19]60s because I graduated from high school in [19]65. I know whenever I was a freshman or sophomore, there were some union issues that were causing problems around the coal industry. I know that I had family that were driving coal trucks and getting shot at from the hillside trying to stop them from running. They were trying to organize the miners. There was an organizer who came, I believe, from Pike County, letting it be known that he was going to have a meeting at a particular church. I heard this. I wasn't around. I didn't go to it. It was my understanding that this person came in and was up at the pulpit talking to the big crowd. He thought, "Well, I'm going to do good. Going to get everybody organized here." Someone stood up in the back of the room, went up, pulled his knife out, cut his tie off, stood there, and auctioned it off \$100 of inch. [laughter] So, it was an interesting story, I thought. [laughter] But there was a lot of trouble going on at that time. After the [19]57 flood is actually probably whenever it first started talking about saving Hazard, I guess, because Hazard flooded really bad. The flood was really bad on Carr. I remember the water running down the creek. It was in the playground area around the grade school, running down through my uncle's bottoms where he grew corn. It was a bad flood. Of course, Carr Creek had won the state tournament in [19]56. So, that was giving us a little more attention too. But as far as...

NM: That is for basketball?

GGH: Basketball, yes. That's the only time we ever won it. But we still hold the record of 1928. We hold the record as far as number of overtimes in the final game of the state tournament. We went four overtimes. We ended up losing. Final score was 13 to 11. But we got invited to the national tournament and won four or five games there. If we'd had won the last game, the first game that we lost, we would have faced Ashland, I believe, the next game in the semi-finals. Ashland ended up winning the national that year too. So, they beat us in the state, and they won the national also. Then we were runners up or third place, I believe, in another time or two. I don't remember the dates. But the 1928 team, I had two relatives that was on that team. Same five players played every game, never made a substitution all year. That team changed the rules of basketball because they did things that no one had seen in basketball before. As a result of that, other teams had to start switching too. Originally, basketball was basically zoned. You had your position, and you played that position on the floor. But the coach had looked at the rules and said he didn't see anything wrong if someone throws the ball onto a teammate on the other side. He didn't see anything wrong with several people guarding that person. So, it was like a full court press and double teaming. A lot of things like that changed in the game as a result. One person was quoted as saying, "Well, Carr Creek can't play, but they won't let you play either." [laughter] That may have just been a story. I don't really know. But that was in the national tournament someone had supposedly said that.

NM: I love the history of basketball here. People get so excited talking about it. It just seems

like it was an exciting time to [laughter] be a basketball fan here. You were saying that in the [19]50s, because of the basketball team, there was attention on the area?

GGH: Yes. I think it probably drew a little more attention along with once it flooded the next year, people were already aware of where Carr Creek was. It made everyone know more about the area. Hazard, of course, didn't want to get flooded again. So, they started trying to get a dam. They first looked at putting it in Letcher County. To this day, I still think that that probably would have been [laughter] the best to save Hazard. Because there's more that comes out of the river in Letcher County than there is that comes out of Carr. But it has probably saved them. They've had some flooding since then, but not as bad. At the time, I believe it was in [19]57, my aunt lived in Hazard, but she was luckily up on high ground. She lived on High Street. But Hazard was a busy little town then. You go to Hazard, it was crowded like New York City. It was a busy little town. Things changed whenever the supermarkets started building, and the town grew around them, and the downtown areas. Even Hindman used to be a busy little town. I remember going to Hindman, and streets were busy, stores were busy. There was a dime store, a Young's Department Store, and a Cain-Sloan's Department Store. Hazard had a whole lot more than that. But anyway, they started talking about the dam at that point. We really didn't know what it was going to be like. I guess we dreaded it because we knew that it was going to affect the school. We probably didn't realize how bad it was going to affect the school because whenever they were building the road, the blasting caused one of the walls to shift a little bit. They, I guess, maybe condemned it for a short time. Then they brought in big, metal bars, and tied from one wall to another to keep it from falling. So, it's okay now.

NM: You are talking the high school?

GGH: This high school, yes. We ended up with it after they consolidated. We were glad to get the school because we didn't want to see it fall. Still, we need a lot of money to get it back in good shape and do something that will support itself. We tried with grants, but we haven't been really successful at this point. A few, but most of that money went elsewhere, not applying it toward the building. But that's the way grants go, I guess.

NM: I am curious, when you first started hearing talk about the dam potentially being built, you said people were dreading it. What kinds of things were people saying about it?

GGH: Well, I'm sure they were aware that they were going to have to sell their place and find another place. Actually, as far as prices of places, it really drove the prices up because livable land is not all that much here. Most of it's hillside. It's a little hard to live on the hillside, finding a spot that you could move your house to or rebuild. They did a lot of that. They would buy the house off of you that you were living in. Then they would sell it back to you really cheap, and you could pay someone to move it. So, a lot of houses were moved above the high-water mark. They would move even churches. They were moving one church that was a concrete block church. Just imagine moving a concrete block building on a little road like this. So, we got stopped a lot with traffic too. They would have to have someone up on the top of the building they were moving that would go through and raise electric lines whenever they went under electric lines. That church that I was talking about didn't hold together. So, it fell, and a lot of the blocks were used to build the Upper Carr Community Center. I was in that area. Actually, I

drew the original plans for the Upper Carr Community Center. Always enjoyed architecture. Actually, that's probably what I should have majored in. But I knew I wasn't going to be able to afford that, so I became a teacher. I actually didn't plan on being a teacher. I was going to be a scientist. At that time was whenever NASA was getting really big, going to the moon and everything. But I also enjoyed art. So, whenever I went on to Morehead, I took an area of concentration in art and decided well I'll go into teaching because I didn't know if there was any money in art. So, I said I'll go into teaching. I loved it once I got into it. So, sometimes you don't know what's going to be good for you. Then after I taught one year in Illinois, I came back and taught at Alice Lloyd for six years. Then my wife talked me into going to her county. Teaching middle school liked to kill me the first year. Then I ended up spending twenty-seven years there, even though we divorced after. I guess it was six or seven more years after we had moved over there. I said I got to retire somewhere, so I just stayed there and taught. Back to the dam. I know that Carl Perkins was probably instrumental in getting the dam. He may have been the one that got it in Knott County instead of Letcher County. But in reality, it may have hurt Knott County more than helping it because all of this area now, no taxes were paid on it because the government doesn't pay taxes. I found that out whenever I was doing some title search in West Virginia. My ex-wife, well, she had bought some property in West Virginia, quite a bit in fact, and my son inherited it. So, after she died, I did a lot of title search over there and realized that some of these properties she had bought fall under lakes in West Virginia. She bought it not knowing what she was buying. I saw that the federal government does not pay taxes on all that property. So, we lost a major tax base in the county here. I'm sure everybody else's taxes went up in order to try to cover it, which probably wasn't good either. But people that still live above the area, they still own their property. Of course, they pay taxes. But the lake areas, no taxes. But anyway, I enjoyed seeing the construction and everything. But I remember as a child thinking, "Someone needs to just load that down with dynamite, and after it gets finished, go light the fuse." [laughter] Of course, that was childish thinking, I know. But that did go through my mind.

NM: Why is that? You were not a fan of the dam?

GGH: No, I wasn't because I knew how many of our people were being displaced by it. Some moved away. Of course, we had people moving away a lot anyway, to go north to work and stuff like that, just like I did whenever I was trying to get money to go to college. Actually, at Alice Lloyd, it was very cheap the first two years that I was there. I could not have gone anywhere else. If I had gone anywhere else, I probably would not have stayed. Fortunately, whenever I first went to Morehead, first or second week, I was walking down University Boulevard and just wandering around. I asked myself a question, "What are you doing here?" Fortunately, I answered it correctly. [laughter] Otherwise, I don't know where I'd be today. Maybe dead, I don't know. I probably would have been driving a coal truck or something, and now I wouldn't be driving a coal truck because there's hardly any running. But I think life presents us with stuff, and we make decisions. Sometimes we make bad decisions. Sometimes we make good ones. I think I've been fortunate that I've made good ones. With my upbringing and all, I've done well. In fact, as of last Friday, July 1st, I'm now president of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association.

NM: Congratulations.

GGH: I don't know if it's congratulations or condolences. [laughter] It's a one-year term. It's not going to be an easy job. I just found out a little while ago I've got to go to Louisville on Monday. I have to go down for a lot of meetings. As president, we basically are the administrator of the meetings. We hire a person and people to run the organization. We represent over 32,000 members. We've got a few that we're trying to get to be members. If we had all of them, we'd have a little more power with Frankfort [laughter] getting the laws. Actually, we've done pretty good in the last year or so. So, we can't complain too much. But that's the purpose of our organization, is to maintain our retirement and health insurance and stuff like that. So, that has to go through the legislature sometimes.

NM: Well, they are lucky to have you looking out for them. That is for sure.

GGH: Well, I don't know. [laughter] I'm still a little concerned about it. But last year, I was president-elect. It's a four-year thing. First year, vice president, then president-elect, then president, and immediate past president. So, it's a four-year activity. I may not make it. I don't know. I'm getting old.

NM: [laughter] Well, time will tell, I guess. Time will tell. But I am curious, you said that most people that you recall were upset about the proposal of the lake being built because of being displaced and school closing and all these things. Do you recall, did anybody try to organize to prevent the lake from being built?

GGH: I don't really recall anyone organizing to try to stop it. Probably would have been useless if they had because Carl Perkins had a lot of power in Washington D.C. He probably felt that he was doing the best thing for Knott County with all the recreation and everything. But a lot of the recreation that goes where there's lakes. Our lake is a little smaller than some of the others, so they didn't build a lodge like the others they built. I went to Frankfort to try to talk those in a previous administration into helping us do what we would like to do with this high school to create almost like a lodge. We call it a bed and breakfast, but it would be almost like a lodge with several rooms and a restaurant and things like meeting rooms. They told us that they lose money on every one of the state parks except one. This is a state park here, but they weren't about to put more into another one that they figured we'd lose. We haven't talked to them recently, but that's what we were told. But if we had to help, I think we could really make a goal with this here. We've talked about the play that you're talking about, if we could put that on in here. Or at one point, I was thinking this property over here, we wanted to buy it. But at the time, they wouldn't sell it. But someone else ended up buying it. That would have been a great place for an amphitheater down here, natural curve to the land where the seats would have been good for it. But it doesn't belong to us now, [laughter] and I like the person that bought it. But there used to be a little store out there that students would go to at lunchtime. I didn't have any money to buy anything, so I never went out there. I think I stood at the door one day. There was so much smoke coming out, I didn't want to go in. [laughter]

NM: Well, I think I remember you saying that you were concerned about the fact that the school was going to end up being closed down because of the lake being built. I think you said that you did not even realize how much of an effect that would actually have. So, I guess, can you tell me

a little bit about that? What sort of effect did it have, having the school get shut down?

GGH: Well, I'm not sure that I actually feared that it would get shut down. Then the person who was principal here became superintendent. So, he tried to consolidate all of the schools. That was a big thing at the time, every county was consolidating. Went into Knott Central was Carr Creek, Hindman, Knott County. They wanted Cordia to go in, but Cordia didn't want to. People in Cordia section identify more with Hazard anyway. In fact, a lot of the people over there, their post office is Hazard. Because that gets to be a problem with our retired teachers because depending upon what county you're in, as to the county that you end up getting the mail. Well, if you're getting your mail at Hazard, they automatically put you in Perry County. But some of them live in Knott County. So, it creates some problems figuring out where people live as to know which county that they belong in. But anyway, the three schools became Knott County Central. The superintendent was our former principal and coach. He was the one that coached the [19]56 team that won the state tournament. His grandson was here just last week visiting. His son played professional ball in the ABA for several years. His grandson that was here, played football, I believe, at Duke. We have visitors from time-to-time here anyway. People just come to the lake, and they come up on the hill and look around. I was here one day working on the stage, and I'd left this door open and heard someone speak in here and come in. It was a descendant of the person who gave the land for this property. I'll be up here working, and people will stop. I'll give them a tour of what is left of the building. I do a lot of the work on it. I changed all these lights to LED. I changed the lights in the gym to LED, lights in the hallway over there. I need to buy some more now and do a few more rooms because it's saving us a little electricity by switching to LED.

NM: You said that you did not have to relocate, correct?

GGH: No. Our home place is still above the high-water mark. But I understand they've got a grant to raise the silt down to where it will actually run water a little over the area above the little silt dam they've got there to catch any trash that comes out and maybe not get into the lake. It does help quite a bit. I think they've got a grant to maybe raise it maybe 20 feet or something like that. So, a little farther up that, there will actually be water. Might be some good fishing up there though.

NM: There you go. [laughter]. Did anyone in your family have to relocate at all?

GGH: Not close family. I know that my great-great-grandmother's grave was removed. I don't remember exactly where it was, and I've never been to it where it is now. I need to do that. But she grew up down around the Smithboro area, which is down where the boat dock is now. After she married my great-grandpa, they were in Missouri at one point. He was a teacher. They were in Grayson County, because that's where my grandpa was born. No, it wasn't Grayson County. I believe it was Grayson City, Carter County. So, they did a lot of moving around. But he died fairly young, and she married a couple more times. So, she was quite old whenever she died. I've heard my mom talk about her. She probably had Alzheimer's before they knew the disease existed, according to what mom told me. She was living with my mom's first cousin. She was taking care of her at the time that she died. In fact, at one point, she was, I believe, in the family of people that own WSGS Radio, the Sparkmans. She was in that family, I believe, at one point.

I don't really know a lot about her. As far as the Honeycutt side of my family, I don't know. We can trace it back to my great-grandfather. Actually, no, great-great-grandfather. He supposedly came from North Carolina when he was a teenager. He came helping someone bring their cattle to this area. He, I think, married the daughter. During the Civil War, I know that he fought for the North. Some people say that he, at one time, fought for the South. But on a form that was applying for a pension, he stated that he fought for no other. [laughter] So, whether that was truth or not, I don't know. He just drew that for a short time before he died. Censuses back then didn't list names of children. It would just say male, 6 years old, didn't list a name. So, you don't know if he was one of the ones that was listed or not. He came as a teenager, I think. Maybe some of the other family came to the area too, I don't know. You hear stories, but I've talked with other Honeycutts that were in the area like over in Floyd County or Johnson County. We never could make a connection. It would be good to. Actually, that was one of the reasons I did the AncestryDNA thing, hoping that maybe one would show up somewhere there that I could get a little more information. I haven't so far. But according to grandma, he really wasn't a Honeycutt. He was a Bergan. That's what she told me. So, that makes it a little more difficult to track too.

NM: That is so interesting. Well, I do not want to keep us going too much longer just because I know you have got some plans. Also, it is starting to warm up a little bit in here without the AC on. [laughter]

GGH: Yes, it is. [laughter]

NM: But do you have time for just a couple more questions?

GGH: Yes, go ahead. Maybe I'll not stray too far.

NM: No, you are fine.

GGH: I have in the past, I know.

NM: That is all right. All so interesting to hear about. But I am curious, if people having to move out of the area for the lake being created, did that affect your community at all up there on Carr?

GGH: Oh, yes. Like I said, we were a very tight-knit community. Each little school area was very tightknit. People having to move, broke up the community. Carr Creek was the center of the whole area, even though it started out as a little post office named Dirk which was down just across the lake now. Then it became Carr Creek after the school became Carr Creek. The creek actually runs from Jeff to the head of Carr, with all those sorts of little tributaries between the two. I lived up in Main Carr probably about 5 miles from top of Bill D Branch Mountain, which goes into Beaver, which feeds the Big Sandy River. Carr feeds the North Fork of the Kentucky River. In fact, grandma told me at one time that Carr lacked just a little bit being long enough to be called a river of its own. So, it's a creek. [laughter] We're proud of Carr Creek. Whenever they built the dam, they called it Carr Fork Dam. Ernest J. Sparkman, who owned WSGS and WKIC, several radio stations, graduated from Carr Creek. He wanted it to be called Carr Creek.

So, at least the state park, I guess, is called Carr Creek State Park. [laughter]

NM: Renamed it. [laughter]

GGH: Renamed it, yes.

NM: Well, I am curious, how do you feel about the lake now?

GGH: Well, I like the lake. I don't think it gets used as much as it should. It's one of the cleanest lakes in Kentucky. I've heard that some of the others are not very clean at all. They have things going on each spring to clean the lake up. I'm not sure if they've had one this year. I know some of the others, I've heard and seen pictures, were in bad shape. We've got some plants growing in it now, that by the time fall rolls around, it doesn't look really good because of that plant that's taken over. I think they have trouble getting rid of it. They can't actually just go in and treat the plant to get rid of it because of the water that we drink comes from the lake now. [laughter] So, they can't do that. I appreciate having that water because it's much better than the dug wells and the drilled wells. Every now and then you'd have a dug well that was really, really good. We had one growing up. But most drilled wells hit a lot of iron or sulfur, and even sometimes salt which was not drinkable. [laughter] I really liked our dug well, but they'd stripped land a little or at least augured on the hillside above and damaged our well. So, we ended up getting a drilled well, and it wasn't good water. That was whenever we first had running water. I burned our house whenever I was 3 years old. I didn't intentionally do it, of course. But I remember it very well. My uncle, who lived in Pikeville at the time, came over, and they built us a two-roomed house. So, I grew up in a two-roomed house up until I was probably a junior in high school. We took the porch off and added two rooms. It no longer exists because me and my mom and younger sister gave me the house and supposedly 15 acres. Then I gave a section of it to my younger sister, and her second husband lives there now. [laughter] I tried to get him to make me a price on the house. It's a nice house. But whenever I was getting ready to retire, I bought a piece of property closer to where my mom was living and got to come back, spend maybe a couple years with her before she died. My sister lives there now. I'm wandering again. [laughter]

NM: That is okay. [laughter] We were just talking about how you feel about the lake now.

GGH: Oh, yes, I like the lake. I'm glad that we've got a couple of eagles nesting in the area. I go watch them sometimes during the summertime. I wish I had a lens for my camera that would bring them up close by, like a few people do have. But that lens is very, very costly. Being here close by, actually it's probably maybe a quarter mile as the eagle flies from here. I've seen them flying around here a few times. I've seen them beside the road. I actually saw it up in Carr once, about probably 3 or 4 miles above the Big Y but above the intersection. I pulled off right quick to try to get a picture of it, and it flew. [laughter] So, it's hard to get a good closeup picture of him. I was seeing it down right across the lake just before you get down to the intersection, one day. I pulled over and was out looking at it, trying to take a picture of it. My sister saw my car there and thought I was broke down or something, and stopped, and eagle flew. [laughter] So, I didn't get that either.

NM: She was trying to do a good deed.

GGH: Yes.

NM: [laughter] I know you mentioned Carl D. Perkins being really influential and powerful at the time. But why do you think they chose the communities that they did to put the lake in?

GGH: Well, it was between here and the Jeremiah area of Letcher County. I think it may be that they had fewer people to buy out on Carr than they had in Letcher County. I don't know why they chose here, but probably because Carl had the influence. Of course, he represented Letcher too, but he probably thought, "Well, that would be good for my home county." He was from Hindman. He represented a large area. He did have a lot of power in Washington. He probably lost a few votes as a result of the lake going in. I know that Carl had good intentions. Some people would have voted for him no matter what his intentions were. One election, I actually worked against him on Carr. I believe that he lost the Upper Carr precinct of my working. That's whenever I was a student at Morehead. I've told some of his relatives that. They get a little upset with me over that, I guess. So, I shouldn't say that. [laughter] But he always got all the votes. He was a good campaigner. During our KRTA Convention this year, we had a little play-like thing of tracing the history of KRTA.

NM: What is KRTA?

GGH: Kentucky Retired Teachers Association. One person played Carl Perkins because he was influential. He was chairman of the education committee in the house. So, he had a lot of influence. Whenever I was teaching at Alice Lloyd, every ten years, they have to do a self-study. Well, Carl was one of Ms. Lloyd's prime students. The Founder's Shack where she lived, very small, little building, she had pictures of everybody, of course, Carl Perkins. One of the members of the committee that was doing the self-study was a president of a college, I believe, somewhere in North Carolina. So, we had to take him in Founder's Shack and show him around. [laughter] Carl was still active at that point. So, he gave us a good report [laughter] because that's where his money was coming from too.

NM: Good strategy. [laughter] Well, I guess starting to wrap up, is there anything that you wish people knew about the communities that were flooded because of the lake? What do you wish people knew about those places?

GGH: Well, I wish people knew everything about them. But online, you can find information about the Smithboro area and Cody area in particular. From just below the school was Cody, a little town, several little businesses, a grocery store, maybe more than one. It was actually an incorporated little area at one time, I believe, because I know the coal trucks had to have something printed on their truck because of going through Cody. Then there was Smithboro, and up in Little Smith Branch, Defeated Creek, which is right when you get down to the stoplight there going across the creek. Up in there is Defeated Creek. There are some stories about that too. I don't really know the stories on that, where it got its name. Also, Redfox was affected by it. I did have family that lived at Redfox, but the water didn't go up that far. Lived in Hale Branch and put Breeding Branch.

NM: How was Redfox affected by the lake?

GGH: Well, of course, the road that was going through Redfox got changed. It's a much nicer road now than it was then. That Redfox was the only community in the county that had Blacks in it at the time. We had Blacks here at the high school. As soon as they passed the rule of integration, Carr Creek, I think, was the first school in the state to integrate. I heard that on the radio a long time ago when I was in grade school, so I think I'm right on that. Actually, the 1956 basketball team had some Blacks on the team, but the KHSAA did not allow them to play in the tournament at that time. So, you'll not see them in that picture over there. There was no school for Blacks in the county at that time. If they went to high school, they had to go to Hazard and go to Liberty High School. Of course, after the integration, Liberty folded, and they went to Hazard. I don't know if they went to other schools in the county or not. But there was some actually on the team that had played for Liberty. One or two of them have been to the reunion before and talked about it. I don't know if any of them still exist. Only two members in that picture of the team are still alive. One of them actually is a preacher. He prayed at the beginning of our reunion this year. Of course, the two managers are still alive. That's the Dean Combs who played professional, and the assistant coach's son, Rick Johnson, who I graduated with. Glenn graduated the year before me. I've wandered again. [laughter]

NM: No, not at all. Well, is there just anything else that I have not asked you about that you think would be important for folks to know?

GGH: It reminds me of the question I used to put on all my tests that I gave my students, "If there's anything that I've discussed that you think is important, [laughter] add it." [laughter] If I thought it was important, I'd give them credit for it. There's lots of things, I'm sure, but I'm getting old and forgetful. They don't come to mind right now. Of course, in other communities that I've mentioned too, up in Amburgey, there's some communities up in there. The water does go up in there a little ways. But I enjoyed while they were working the road if I went to Hazard. We used to travel 15 to Hazard. As they were working on it, I enjoyed seeing all the construction. In fact, I was a student at Morehead whenever they were building that big bridge that goes across the lake down there by the beach in that area. They had a beam that went out to the first pier going down. Then it went probably 30 or 40 feet beyond. I was taking photography at the time. I walked out on that beam all the way out there and back, taking a picture. It was a little dangerous [laughter] especially with no – it was probably on a Sunday with no one around. Then there was a beam of the bridge right down here near the intersection. They had already poured the pier. Then it was busting rock up. Someone loaded a too big a shot or something. A big rock hit that beam, knocked it over, so they had to rebuild it. That was interesting because I lacked construction. I was out looking at stuff like that and taking pictures. I wish I had them now because I don't. My house in Martin County burned, so I lost everything that I had, including all my paintings. That was during the divorce, so it was rough. I still miss them.

NM: Gosh, I hate hearing that.

GGH: But life is what it is. But I don't really remember anything else. Like I said, I probably wouldn't be very interesting as far as the lake was concerned because I wasn't as involved in it as

some of these other communities. I wasn't bothered too much with my little community up at Pine Top.

NM: Well, it still has been interesting hearing your perspective. Even though you did not have to move, just hearing you say how it still affected you all and broke up the cohesion of the community.

GGH: After I graduated, it was nine years later, they closed the school. We all hated to see it closed. There's probably a few that didn't care too much for the school. They don't seem to want to participate in our activities now. So, we wish there were a few of them that had a lot of money that would help us out. There's a few that's got a little bit of money, and they help us.

NM: Well, maybe just the last question. Who else do you think that I should maybe talk to, to learn more about the lake and the communities that were there?

GGH: Well, it would be really nice if you could talk to some of the people that's no longer with us [laughter] because they would have a completely different perspective, I'm sure. I can't think of anyone right off that would be in these communities that's still alive. I just turned 75 on June 8th. I don't feel like I'm that old, but sometimes I do. [laughter] It catches up with me sometimes. I've got some relatives. I said no close relatives. I actually have second cousins, and his family lived in Defeated Creek. So, they had to move. They ended up moving up to Pine Top. They were near his mom's home, and they ended up moving to his dad's area.

NM: Are they still around?

GGH: He's in Florida now. [laughter] He's a retired army person. I forget what his final rank was, but he, I think, at one time, worked in the Pentagon. He still did other work with them after he came out. He did contract work, I think, with them because I know he was in Europe quite a while after he was out. That's Randall Honeycutt. He would've been a good one to talk to because he had to move because of it. He moved to Pine Top. Well, his two sisters that live at Pine Top now, you might talk to them, Patricia Honeycutt and – my mind's drawing a blank. Names slip me from time-to-time.

NM: I understand.

GGH: I never was good at remembering names. Mike Hall is her husband. She was postmaster at Pippa Passes for many years. I can't think of her name right off. Sorry about that.

NM: Well, that is okay. That is all right. If it comes to you, you can shoot me an email.

GGH: Dianne, that's right.

NM: Dianne.

GGH: Yes, Dianne.

NM: Dianne Hall?

GGH: Yes.

NM: Are they folks that you might be able to put me in touch with?

GGH: I probably could. I don't have their phone number. But I believe that I've got Dianne on Facebook. But she never puts anything on anymore. She may not even be on Facebook now. Let me see if I can find if she's still on Facebook. Dianne Honeycut Hall. D-I-A-N-N-E is the way she spells it. So, you could find her on Facebook probably.

NM: I will see if I can do that. Maybe if I cannot get in touch with her, I will get back up with you and see if you can maybe help me figure out another route. Because, yes, that would be neat. I have not talked with anyone that lived in Defeated Creek, so that would be good to know a little bit more about that area.

GGH: She was still a child whenever they had to move. I don't know how old she was. But Patricia was actually a few years younger than me. She was the oldest. That's the only ones I can think of right off that had a fairly close family that had to move.

NM: Well, you do not have to rack your brain now. If you think of anybody, I would love to know because continuing to look for folks to talk with about this.

GGH: If I can think of any, I've got your phone number. I'll give you a call.

NM: That sounds great. Well, let me go ahead and wrap us up here. I will turn the recording off. So, just signing off. This is Nicole Musgrave talking with Golden Glen Hale on July 5th, 2022. We are here at the old Carr Creek High School in Knott County, Kentucky. This is for the Carr Creek Oral History Project.

[end of transcript]