

Nicole Musgrave: All right. So, we are recording now and I will introduce us here. So, this is Nicole Musgrave and I am speaking with Anne Amburgey Wagner. Today is June 14th, 2023, and this is for the Carr Creek Oral History project. I'm actually on the road driving through Western North Carolina right now. Anne, where are you calling in from?

Anne Amburgey Wagner: London, Kentucky.

NM: All right. Great. Well Anne, just to get started, can you say your name and tell me a little bit about who you are?

AAW: Well, my name is Anne Amburgey Wagner. I'm a retired schoolteacher. I taught elementary grades for over twenty-eight years, retired now. Now, I'm a proud grandmother.

NM: Wonderful. Well, Anne, will you tell me a little bit about your people and where you are from?

AAW: Okay. I live in Knott County in a little small community known as Smithboro. Back in those days, and mostly now too, we lived up a hauler. The holler was kind of little [inaudible] hauler. I lived there until I was – I was born in Hazard, Kentucky and I was raised at this holler until I'm fifteen. Then we had to move houses and putting in the [inaudible]. So, then we located in London, Kentucky, had to leave all my family and friends but we survived.

NM: Yes. Tell me a little bit about your family growing up there.

AAW: Okay. My mom's name was Dorothy Blair Amburgey. My dad's name was Tandy Amburgey. I had three brothers. My oldest brother was Don Amburgey, twin brother was Anthony, and baby brother was Gary Kevin. He was born a year before we left. So, he doesn't have too many memories of living [inaudible]. We live [inaudible] of course, on the side of the mountain. We were very happy.

NM: Yes. Tell me a little bit about what your parents were like and the kinds of things they did.

AAW: Okay. My dad, he was a coal miner. My mom was a housewife. They always raise the big garden on side of the mountain. We've had to go borrow someone's mill to plow the garden. They didn't have the tillers and things like they have now. So, it was always interesting. I got to plow once but I didn't go too far. I think I went about three or four feet and I just thought that that wasn't for me. Mom was one of the best cooks in the neighborhood. You would be walking home from school with and we'd get so close to the house and where the house is up on the hill, the smells would come down that hill. I'd say, "I know what will happen for supper this evening." Then we'd run all home so we could eat. Mom was a quilter. She loved the make quilt. I've got several of her quilts and my baby brother has a lot. My other two brothers passed away in an accident in 1976. So, I had given my brother's daughters the quilt that mom made. Mom just love to be doing stuff with her hands all the time.

[inaudible commentary]

AAW: You'll have to repeat that I could not understand you, Honey. Nicole? Nicole, can you hear me? Hello? Are you back? Hello? Can you hear me, Nicole?

Nicole Musgrave: Okay. So, we are back connected again, Anne. We lost each other on the phone. But I am pulled over now so that we will not lose service again. You are sharing a little bit about your parents. You mentioned that your mother is a wonderful cook and that she was a wonderful quilter and you were sharing about some of the quilts that you and some of your kin still have that she made. I was curious, do you know how your mother learned to quilt?

Anne Amburgey Wagner: Well, I'm not sure. But I'm pretty sure she probably learned from her mum and the ladies around in the neighborhood. They would meet up at the each houses and they had these quilting frames that hung down. They'd roll them up in the ceiling toward the ceiling at night. When they was going to work on them, then they'd roll it back down and the kids, we'd all play underneath. Of course we got in trouble every now and then for poking our fingers up there, and they didn't like that too much. But I would say from her mum and her grandmother, and all the ladies in the neighborhood, they all shared things like that together.

NM: Yes, I love that memory. Did she quilt very often? Like was she often going over to other people's homes to quilt?

AAW: Oh, yes, yes. Then all the kids, they'd always bake some cookies, gingerbread. Mom could make the best gingerbread. We'd always have that and they'd make popcorn balls, to kind of keep us out from bothering them so much. But they would go to the different houses and work on quilts and help them get there. Usually, in the cooler time of the year is when they did most of their quilting because it gave them something to do because they couldn't be out in the garden or canning or doing something like that.

NM: Yes. I guess when there was a group of folks coming together to make a quilt, what would happen to the quilts that they made?

AAW: Well, what they would do? Say, like my mum started one, and then she talked to the ladies, and then they'd come and they'd help her finish it. Then she would go to their house and help them finish their quilts. They'd get started and it gave them a way of sitting and talking to one another. Now, you've got to remember, a lot of their stuff was before T.V.s before we had television. So, it gave them something to do and they'd listen to the radio. They'd sit there and sing but it's just something that we don't do nowadays. We go visit people, but it's just not the same. I don't believe. I mean, they was lot of love in those quilts.

NM: Yes. Did you ever quilt with your mother or anyone else there?

AAW: No. [laughter] Let's just say I cannot quilt. I can barely sew. I can sew buttons. [laughter] But no, that's not one of my talents. But I wished that I had of and I've helped mom. She loved to make bird quilts, and she would get these different patterns of birds, and we'd go and buy the material. I did help her. I can cut out. I cut out a lot of the birds or she would make her quilts with the birds. I did have the fire, but no, I never did learn the art. I wished I had but it's not too late yet.

NM: Yes. There you go. Yes. Well, I was so interested too. You sharing about some of the things that you all would make. Like you mentioned, popcorn balls and gingerbread. What was your mother's gingerbread like?

AAW: Very delicious. Everybody, they ask her, "Dorothy, when are you going to make some more gingerbread?" And she said, "Well, when I get time" and, "Well, we'll watch the kids so you make it." So, a lot of people love mom's gingerbread. She was real good at gingerbread, and she could bake a cake. I mean, this was before they had cake mix boxes. I mean, she made a very delicious applesauce cake, which I have the recipe, and I make it, too. So, that's been passed down. I've not tried the gingerbread. I'm thinking about it. I've been looking. I have her recipe box that she had and she had like two or three recipes. I guess that's where I learned. But when I was getting together to make my barbecue sauce, I looked on the Internet and I found different recipes and I'd write down what I like. So, I combined about three or four recipes to make and what I didn't like, I didn't write it down. So, they pretty much like it though. I gave it away, of course, and everybody wants. As a matter of fact, I went to the doctor yesterday and he said, "I'm needing some more of that barbecue sauce." He said, "I'm getting ready to have a big cook off." And I said, "Well, I'll make some." So, that's why I'm making that today. But now my mom, she was a good cook. A lot of people like to come to our house. She could fry chicken. Of course, these are homegrown chickens too. You didn't go to the store and get the chicken and all cut up. She had her own chickens and she was just a great cook. My dad, he was a pretty good cook, too.

NM: What sort of things did your dad cook?

AAW: [laughter] Well, I'll tell you what my boys like. My dad could fry potatoes better than anybody. I have never been able to fry potatoes like he does, but I don't use lard. I guess that's probably the reason that they loved his fried potatoes and he'd make potato chips. He had this little thing. He would slice the potatoes real thin. They had a like a deep fryer and he could really make some pretty good potato chips. I guess that he could just fix anything for breakfast. But mom was a number one person in the kitchen. You weren't allowed in the kitchen especially when she's baking a cake. Of course, I was all the time running around, and she said, "Get out of here. You going to make my cake –" I think she called it drop or fall or something like that. So, if she had something wrong with her cake, I always got the blame because I was always the one running through the house and doing stuff.

NM: Yes. Did your mother ever sell any of her baked goods?

AAW: I really don't think she did. I don't think she ever sold anything. Now, she was real good at giving away when they would – they grew gardens until they were in their [19]80s. I think we took the privilege away from Dad when he was eighty-three and she was eighty-one. They grew big gardens and she just naturally had a green thumb. She planted it grew and it produced. I don't know how many pounds of potatoes and tomatoes and green beans and cabbages they have given away. When we would have a family that would come and we had family that moved to New York and they would come in and mum and dad would load the trunk of their car. Then they just have everything in the world in there. If they had smoked meat and he'd have that

ready for them, too. They could take back with them. No, I don't think she ever charged anything. [laughter] I guess I get that from her too.

NM: Yes. I know I have heard tales before about how popular gingerbread, it was and is around Knott County. I have heard tales about how some of the local politicians would give away gingerbread at the polls. Is that something you have experienced or heard of?

AAW: I've not heard about that. But I remember we had to sit in the car when they went to the polls to vote. So, I wasn't allowed. They may have had – I've heard of them passing around some stuff that was in bottled. [laughter]

NM: Yes.

AAW: You know what I mean?

NM: I know. I follow your drift. Yes. [laughter]

AAW: Oh, yes. That's one thing mum and dad did not do. They did not make that. [laughter]

NM: Got it. Well, you know, you mentioned that your father would smoke meat. What do you remember about him smoking meat?

AAW: I just knew he raised his own hogs and he would, of course, when it got cold enough that he would kill them and that. But I don't remember that much about the process of him doing it because he had his little building that he did that in. Of course, we weren't allowed in there. I guess it was a good thing. Probably wasn't had much meat left, but I never did – we weren't allowed to go in there and he was real famous for it. He dug a hole in the ground, and he lined it with lumber and put a lid on it. When he dug his potatoes out of his garden, he would put it down in there and he would cover it up with some of mum's old quilt. So, we'd have potatoes through the winter months. Now, we could get in there because we had to get in there to get the potatoes, but we weren't allowed in the meat house.

NM: Yes. That is so interesting to hear you describe that process of preserving the potatoes. That is so neat.

AAW: Well, he would even put cabbage in there, too. He'd wrap the cabbage up in a brown paper bag and then lay the quilts over there. They did that right up until, well, when we took their gardening privileges away. He always had a place to put things like that for the winter and...

NM: Yes. I am curious, Anne. How did you spend your time as a young person growing up there in Smithboro?

AAW: Well, when we started the school, we had to walk to school. It was about, well, mile, mile and a half. It was a two room school, there at Smithboro. I think our grades was like first through fifth in one room and then the other room had, six, seventh and eighth. Then when they

went to high school, they would go to Carr Creek High School. We went to the two room school until in our first and second grade. Then they built a new school, Carr Creek Elementary up at Cody, Kentucky. We started going there in third grade. So, we went there from third through seventh and eighth grade. We went to the high school and to the high school building and of course, Carr Creek. I guess that might be considered, I don't know, lip color maybe. I don't know. But we went to school there and I was a cheerleader. Of course, I was bad in everything they had going back there. I liked working in the library when we got to the bigger school. I like being around the books. Of course I only got to go to the freshmen. Then we moved to London when I was a sophomore, so I started school in London. I was a little bit on the tomboy side. I like to play basketball and I was terrible for climbing trees and my poor old mum, I don't know how many heart attacks I almost gave her. I'd be right in the top of the tree and me and the limbs are blowing in the wind, so. We always got out, played with the neighborhood kids and slide in the creek a lot. [laughter] That's the good old days.

NM: Yes. Tell me what it was like as a cheerleader.

AAW: Well, I see. I was a cheerleader. I guess it was when I was in the sixth grade and seventh grade and eighth grade. Oh, I loved it. Of course, cheerleading has changed a lot since in the [19]60s. [laughter] Let me just say that. But oh, we enjoyed it. Going on the trips, getting to ride on the bus and go to different schools. I always remember going to over tournament. That's one of the better places to go. Seem like we went a lot of places, but I like going to Hyman and cheerleading over there. Hyman had a really big gym. We think those gyms were gigantic, but going back and looking at them now, well, they're just normal size. But I enjoyed it. I remember when I was in the eighth grade, before you went to high school, you had to take a test and pass and then you got to graduate from eighth grade. Oh, I was very upset because my boyfriend got to be the valedictorian and I was the salutatorian. The reason was our gym teacher didn't give girls A. We got Bs and that was where my babe was at in gym class. So, P.E. class. So, yes.

NM: Things have changed.

AAW: [laughter]

NM: Yes. Wow. That's wild to hear. Yes.

NM: Hope you go ahead Anne.

AAW: Oh, I was just going to say, when we moved to London, I went to Bush High School for three years and I finally made it to – I got to be the valedictorian, so I finally got to have that honor.

NM: Oh, good. I'm glad you got that. Yes, it sounds like it was well deserved. [laughter]

AAW: Well, I was very surprised because just being there three years that they had to calculate my freshman year at Carr Creek and my other three years there and it come right out. So, I studied hard. Once I got into school, I really – I worked. I studied a lot. I sure did.

NM: Yes. Well, I'm curious. Do you remember when you started to know about the plan to build the dam and put the lake in?

AAW: Well, I remember when they made the final decision, we was all set and my grandma lived at the bottom of the mountain where we lived and we was all sitting in her living room and a lot of the neighbors was in there. Of course, we might have been ten or eleven and everybody was crying. So, I thought, well, I'll just cry along with them. They cried because they knew that we'd have to move. We didn't know where we were going to go or anything like that. It was it was a shock. Then, as you know, people started moving. We would be coming in from school and the school bus would have to stop. A lot of people moved their houses and we'd have to pull off the road as far as we could get. So, the trucks that was pulling the house could get on by us. Back in those days, the roads aren't as good as they are right now. There were some moments. But it really was a shock because we had been used to everything. We'd go to Hazard to the store, go down there and shop. We'd go to Hyman and do shopping over there. There was places where we'd go and picnic and places that we'd just go and visit people. We'd go and visit. We knew that was all going to change. The churches that we went to, we knew that would change because we didn't know where we were going to move to. So, it was quite a shock.

NM: Yes. That is interesting, that memory you have of everyone gathered at your house. So, it was not just family, it was neighbors, too, that were over.

AAW: Right. There are a lot of the neighbors with family members, too. But a lot of them was just neighbors. I can remember the. I think his name was Garfield Collins and I didn't know what Ms. Collins names was until she passed away. Garfield and Zerilda? No. It was an odd name. I just can't really remember now. But they were probably up in their eighties and they were really devastated because they said that they'd lived there all these years and now we're going to have to move. It was sad because when they moved, they didn't live much longer after that. My mum always said it broke her heart and I said, "Well, I can see." because when you have to leave your family and your friends and going to a new community and you're not mess to lack the people or the people going to lack you and we lucked out, though. We ended up in London. But it was sad for a lot of people.

NM: Yes. Do you remember, like was there anybody that you knew of that tried to resist this happening or speak out against it?

AAW: Oh, they were several. I can remember several, just listening to their parents and stuff. Several people were against this. But then I guess when Army Corps of Engineers decided this was what was going to help save hazard from washing away and the community zoned down toward hazard. So, I guess they thought it was the best. But anywhere you put a dam in, you're going to have a lot of displaced people and it's never the same. We missed out a lot of things with our families growing up and going to their birthday parties and graduations and getting married and when we moved to London, we had to come Old 80. If you've ever been on Old 80, you would know it was a very curvy road up and down the mountains. They finally got Daniel Boone, which is now Hal Rogers Parkway and finally got that, and it was easier to go back and visit. We had to move away from my mum's parents. We lived right next to them. We was

always real close to them. I had a great Uncle John that was real close to. So, we had to we had to give up a lot of good family times.

NM: Yes. Why was it that your parents chose to move to London?

AAW: How did they choose to go there? [laughter]

NM: Yes. I am sorry. I know that in a lot of ways it was not a choice. But I know that some people stayed around Knott County but your family did not stay around Knott County. So, why was it that they chose to go to London rather than finding a different spot around Knott County?

AAW: Well, they did look at a place. I remember it was up on Hales Branch in Knott County, and I was totally against that house. I said, "Mum, I don't want our address being Hales Branch." And of course, it was Hale's. But I said, "You know, you people will make fun of us for living here." Then they looked at another house. But I don't remember. I don't think we went with them when they went to the house. But they were at Boonville. When my baby brother was born, he had a terrible allergies. Someone, well, they didn't know it was allergies at that time, but they told that there was a real good doctor for that at Boonville, and his name was Dr. Akers. So, they drove to Boonville to see Dr. Akers. While they were sitting in the waiting room, there was a man there from London. They got to talking and they – mom and dad told them that they were having to look for a place to move because they were putting a dam in and we had to move. He told them that he had a farm house in a farm and it was for sale. So, we came to London to check it out and the rest is history. We moved here. It was so different. I mean, our garden wasn't on the side of a mountain. Where we lived, there was no chance of being in a major flood. You didn't have to worry. We didn't see a lot of coal trucks up there. We saw a lot of coal truck, but it was totally different. We actually learned how to grow tobacco. That was quite an experience. We never had something like that in Knott County. But that's how we ended up. Mum and dad had to start gym at Boonville. My grandparents, they moved over next to one of their sons and they lived up above Viper. It was really hard on us, not being able to see our grandma and grandpa. But everybody just - and a lot of people just moved up farther up toward Hyman and places up there and lit car that wasn't going to be underwater. It's really hard to go back there and plan out. Now, right here, this is where our house was. A road goes through that where our house was and it's up there where they have the boat ramp. It's close to that. So, it's been an experience. I'll say that.

NM: Yes. I guess like, what was it like for you as a fifteen, sixteen year old trying to settle in to life in London?

AAW: Well, when we moved to London, the only people we knew lived in our house. [laughter] The road that we lived down had four houses and ours was number three. When we moved there, we moved in on Sunday and no, we moved in on a Friday and school started on that Monday. We had been working on the house and remodeling and getting everything fixed. So, we had got to learn some of the neighbors. So, that's all we knew when we went to school that day. I was a sophomore and we all had to go and sit in the gym and they asked if there was any new students and if there were they needed to come up to the front where the stage was. That they was going to have to get our names and everything. I thought, "Oh my goodness, I've got to

get up in front of all these people. I have no idea." Of course, it wasn't that many, but I thought it was like a thousand people, but it wasn't. Then when I came back and I sat down, I met - I was supposed to go to my homeroom. So, I went to my homeroom and there was a girl in there and I said, "Am I in the right room?" And she said, "Yes." And that young lady became my friend and we are still friends after all this. I think that was August 22nd, 1967. So, we've been friends ever since we talked every day. But it was different when we moved here. My oldest brother. By the time we moved here, he had gotten married and he moved to Indiana. So it was twin brother, me, and my baby brother Kevin. He wasn't in school yet. He was just one when we moved here. But it was a big change just trying to learn people's names and where the rooms were. It was an experience, but we overcame and adapted.

NM: Yes. You mentioned that it was really difficult for your parents in particular having to move so far away from family. I am curious, how did they cope with that?

AAW: Well, they just did the best they could. We'd go back and visit as often, and sometimes when some of the people were, going to Somerset or Lexington, they would stop by and see us and talking on the phone. But it was you just miss out on so much. My mum loved to write letters. I've got a lot of her little, they're not notebooks. They're little notepads that she had that she would write down what the weather was like that day, or a scripture or something that she had heard from someone in the mountains. I've got a lot of those things. Of course, my baby brother, he doesn't relate to that because he was way too young when we moved here. But it was hard on them. It really was. My dad's parents had already passed away, but he still had some brothers and sisters that lived up there. It was an experience. It sure was.

NM: Yes. I am curious, what was it like for you after moving to London when you all would go back and visit folks around Knott County? What was that like going back?

AAW: Well, sometimes I got lost trying to find where they had moved, but usually I'd finally find them because everybody up there knew everybody. So, they could kind of help you out if you were stopped and said, "Well, I don't know really where to go." And I said, "I don't even know if I'm on the right road." And usually I was close, but I had a lot of close friends that I like to go. I think you know one of the friends, Debbie Mullins.

NM: Yes, I know Debbie.

AAW: Corbett lived up the same holler than I did. He lived up the sea. Well, there was one house between us. So, I knew Corbett and all of his family. Debbie's family lived at the mouth of the holler. I've known them for we've been friends forever. Christine Madden, She's Amburgey now. She was a real close friend. I would go and visit and we'd all go for the different school reunions and we'd try to meet and get together and go somewhere to eat and talk because it usually lasted a whole day because you had so much to talk. Then we all started getting married and having kids and going back and seeing. It was a joy. I love my mountains. I really love my mountains and my mountain people. I don't know how to describe it, but it's a love that does not go away. The friendships you had as a child and you still have them as an adult. Not many people have that nowadays. A lot of people know how to take care of one another and how to be friends. Sorry. I got a little teary eyed.

NM: Oh, that is okay. Yes. Well, so, it is important that you have been able to keep connected with some of those folks that were important to you growing up. It seems real special that you all have been able to stay important in each other's lives.

AAW: I'll tell you, Facebook has been wonderful. You can keep in contact with some of them. We've moved all over the country. But it's been good. Good way of finding people that you know. Oh, my goodness, I've not talked to them in years and they just live all over the state and different states. But it's it helps us keep in contact with them and...

NM: Yes. I guess I am curious, what has it been like for you over the years or maybe in the beginning to come back and see how the landscape has changed, the geography, like how it has changed since the lake was put in?

AAW: Oh, no. We used to - I can't remember the actual name, but it was between Sassafras and Smithboro. It was a little cemetery they had up on top of the mountain there. It kind of went up to a flat. I think the name of it was P Motors. We go there and I have a lot of, well, there's a cemetery there, but there's a big field. When we'd go to decorate the graves and we'd kind of have, reunions there, and then we would have a different get-togethers and part of that, that's where the road goes. The road goes through there now and through the mountain. You go up there and you think, "Okay, now right there is where Dennis Cornett store was, and right there is where we went and we climbed that mountain." And you go back and you try to figure out and see right there probably would be because you got to think a lot of it's under water now. But you go back and you think now, "Oh, boy. We sure had fun down there playing in the creek there. We went back to school and Smithboro is all under water. So much is -" But you just go back and think now right there was where Cody was. There's where my aunt's store was, and right over here was (Laird watched storage?) You start to kind of planning out. Then when you go up at Carr Creek where the high school was and you drive by down there below it, you think, "Well, yeah, I've been there. Right over there is where (Lonzo Watts?) lived." You just try to remember little landmarks that you think, "Well, right there is where it was at." Of course a lot of it is guesswork, but it sure was different. We'd go back and see they started building the dam and everything around that area. Then seeing how they was cutting down the mountains and trees and everything. It was kind of heartbreaking.

NM: Yes. I guess I am curious, how do you feel about the lake and the experience now?

AAW: Well. I had a lot of bad feelings about the lake but as teenager, but I have got over that. Life goes on. See, it's not the only life that's ever been made, and people had to move. But for people that's never had to experience it. It's heartbreaking, but I've never been on the lake that some of my family has a houseboat there at the dock there where Smith's bar used to be. I have been on the houseboat and we used to have family reunions there and another place close there. But now I have a lot of family. They do a lot of boating on there, a lot of fishing. But I have my moments, [laughter] I'll say that. But things have gotten easier as we get older. I'm not a young chick anymore, so I guess I've learned to deal with it. Mom and dad, they didn't want to be buried in Laurel County. So, they wanted to be buried in Knott County. So, it was buried on the side of a mountain up there and at Carr's Fort Memorial. I started coming a slide. So, we moved

them back to Laurel County. It'll be two years in October and we don't have to worry about the mountain sliding. Don't have to worry about getting washed away. It was getting to where I had trouble walking up the mountain. I had to start at an angle and start up through there and hold on to the tombstones to get up there. I mean, I'm seventy-one years old now, and I don't think I could make it up that mountain now, but we've got them where I can just pull that up to them and sit there. Visit, don't have to worry about any floody mountain sliding down. I have a lot of mudslides and stuff, so don't have to worry about that anymore. We moved my mum and dad and my brothers, my two brothers. But that was an experience but my brother and I thought it was for the best because I didn't want to be trying to figure out. Home is home in a mudslide. That's one thing about it, when a lot of the cemeteries up there they had to move a lot of the old cemeteries and I can remember my papa Blair, he would make tombstones. Handmade tombstones just don't last and they didn't know who some of the people were when they was moving them. That was awful. A lot of the cemeteries, they did have a lot on the side of the mountain, but now they had where they would be a flat on the mountain and that's where they put cemeteries, too. A lot of those flat cemeteries went up on the side of a mountain and that's that. I guess that was about one of the worst things I've seen with family having to be moved and a lot of that was very hard. People don't think about when they doing that. There's a lot of things that have to be moved and cemeteries is one of them.

NM: Yes, absolutely. Yes, I have heard from a number of people about that. Yes, it sounds like that was a difficult thing for a lot of people. That process...

AAW: I remember we coming home from school one day and the bus pulled off the road that was like three or four big trucks with trailers behind them. They had the remains of different people in there. Some of them had nice caskets and some of them just wood things and some I don't know what it was. I didn't want to look much.

NM: Yes. I am sure that would be a startling thing to see, especially as a young person. Yes.

AAW: It is yes. We knew. "Oh, my goodness. That's the people from so and so's cemetery." So, that was one of the hardest, I guess, about the dam being built and everything being moved and changed and covered up with water.

NM: Yes. Well, I am curious, is there anything that I have not asked you about that is still on your mind or that you think would be important for folks to know?

AAW: Well. I just hope no one ever has to go through that. [laughter] If you do, you just have to deal with it and just get on with your life if you have to move. I mean, it's hard. People nowadays I don't think they care about moving because we're pretty mobile society. But back in those days it was very difficult to do that. It took us several trips to come from there to London. It wasn't just overnight. [laughter] They'd only give you so long to get your stuff and get it going. Once they bought you out of, my dad always called and said that would always when we'd meet up somewhere. Well, have they bought you out yet. Some of the people did, kind of resist about, what prices they were giving them. But it didn't help. They tried to get a little bit higher price. Usually they didn't. But I just hope no one ever has to go through that. I know people going to have to because we have to have our lakes. But this was to help keep from

having such bad floods. I always remembered my mum talking about the [19]57 flood. I was born, but I don't remember it. But it's just an experience and you just do the best you can.

NM: Yes. Well, Anne I just want to thank you so much for making the time to talk with me today. It's been just a privilege to hear about your story and some of your experiences. So yes, just thank you so much for making the time and for sharing.

AAW: Well, if you think of anything else you want to ask, let me know. Maybe I'll have a good answer for you.

NM: [laughter] Okay. Well, that sounds good. Well, I will...

AAW: Thank you for taking the time to make this something that someone may be able to use in the future.

NM: Absolutely. I will follow up with you on Facebook next week when I am back in town. I will follow up with you there.

AAW: Okay. That sounds fine.

NM: Will you have a wonderful rest of – I appreciate it.

AAW: You have a wonderful day too.

NM: All right. Bye-bye.

AAW: Bye-bye.

NM: This is Nicole Musgrave, was Speaking with Anne Amburgey Wagner on June 14th, 2023. This is for the Car Creek Oral History Project. This is being recorded via free conference call. Anne was calling in from London, Kentucky. I am calling in from somewhere in western North Carolina.

[end of transcript]