

ORAL MEMOIR EXCERPTS
OF
LOUIE EDWARD MAYBERRY

An Interview Conducted
19 March 1987

Interviewer:
Rebecca Sharpless

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Family Life and Community History Project

Institute for Oral History
Baylor University
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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR ORAL HISTORY

GENERAL POLICY AND PURPOSES:

A member of the Oral History Association, Baylor's Institute for Oral History (BUIOH) supports and embodies the goals, guidelines, and standards of archival quality prescribed by the national professional association to ensure long-term preservation of memoirs. It is the policy of BUIOH to select memoirists who have been participants and/or eyewitnesses to topics selected for oral history research. Their tape-recorded memoirs provide links between the immediate past and the present in a very human way. A scholarly, but relaxed, conversational atmosphere exists during the interview. To encourage completely candid recollections, the memoirist is asked to regard the oral history memoir as a highly personal journal. The transcribed historical document which the finished memoir becomes is the raw material used by historians and professional scholars.

The memoirist may choose to have the memoir:

1. Accessible to the community at large
2. Access limited to portions of memoir
3. Free for use after stipulated time span
4. Accessible at discretion of memoirist
5. Sealed until death of memoirist
6. Sealed until passage of stipulated time period after death of memoirist

MEMOIR PROCEDURE:

Oral history at Baylor follows a prescribed plan which may be briefly outlined:

1. Initial contract with the memoirist
2. Arrangements made for interview(s)
3. Recording of interview(s)
4. Transcribing of tapes in the BUIOH office
5. Editing of transcript(s) by memoirist
6. Finished memoirs: one transcript for the memoirist, one transcript and tape(s) for The Texas Collection. The finished typewritten oral memoir follows the interviewee's stated wishes as reflected in his/her editing of the first transcript(s), with only minor further editorial modifications performed in the BUIOH office in preparing the completed memoir.

LEGAL STATUS: Scholarly use of the tape and transcript of the interview with Louie Edward Mayberry is unrestricted. The agreement was signed on 15 March 1987.

INTERVIEW HISTORY

Interviewer: Rebecca Sharpless

Transcriber: Lois Myers

Editor: Vicki Logan

Final editor: Benjamin Vetter

The tape and transcript of this interview was processed in the offices of the Institute for Oral History, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

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MAYBERRY: We had—we had moved back to Hillsboro from Denison. We moved back to Hillsboro again and stayed until I was eleven. And we left there in the fall, well, I would say in September, I would say, in 1918. Of course, that was during World War I because I recall when we moved to San Antonio, I started school. And just a few days—I hadn't gone to school but a few days—in just a few days they had a flu epidemic in San Antonio and they turned the schools out. That was during World War I in 1918, and we stayed out for quite a while. And they were trying to teach me how to work. They let me shine shoes at the I&GN Station, in those days, it's Missouri-Pacific now.

SHARPLESS: Um-hm. That was the International & Great Northern, right?

MAYBERRY: Yes, that's right. And the main train they had was the Sunshine Special, and I would hear the redcaps call those names, "All aboard for New Braunfels, San Marcos, Austin, Taylor, Rockdale, Llano, Valley, Junction." He could name all the way to St. Louis, I believe. And I shined shoes there, and I finally bought a red cap, so I could make a few dimes helping the people with their luggage. I was just an eleven-year-old boy. (chuckling) And then school started again, and it went for a couple of weeks, and they turned out again. We didn't get much schooling before Christmas. And then when Armistice Day came, we were on the street that day. We were going to Lanier Hotel. We had a shine stand down there, my cousin and I. I had a cousin, he was a year older than I was, and he learned how to work already. His mother was a maid at the I&GN station, and, of course, they were acquainted with the people in San Antonio and she got him a job, bellboy at the Lanier Hotel. And when Mama moved in there, well, he got me on as a bellboy, and we had a shine stand there, and we also sold papers. So they were teaching us how to make a dollar. At any rate, that morning, the Armistice morning, we

got up early, we got on the streetcar, and we got off on the corner of West Commerce and St. Mary. The *Express and Evening News* office was a block away on Crockett Street right down by the river, and before we got out papers, we came across a crowd of little boys, paper boys. Most of them were Hispanic boys, and we were the only two black ones out there. And I was a stranger there, you know, and I had never sold papers to do any good, and he saw that ring of boys, and he looked over in there and said, "That's my partner." And they had a poor little Mexican boy down. They had knocked his papers out of his hand. They were whipping him. And my cousin waded through there and what a fight. And, of course, I was right behind my cousin to see that they didn't hurt him. And he came out of the crowd with this little boy. He was crying. So we put him between us, picked up his papers, and we headed toward the Lanier Hotel. It was on St. Mary, also, but it was two more blocks down the street. So we put him between us, and we stood him out in front of the Lanier Hotel to sell his papers so we could watch him, so if those guys came up there and started anything again, we could go out there and take up for him. And he stood out there and sold his papers that day. After a while, the extras came out. "Extra! Extra! The war is over!" And the town went wild. We went up on the street, and girls were all over town and they had boxes of powder, talcum powder, and they were slinging that powder on everybody, and I was just as white as I could be and smelled good. (both laughing) Oh, we headed home to tell Mama and my aunties. And so we came back, and they had a parade that evening, people out of Fort Sam Houston, Camp Travis, and all. They had a big parade, their guns, and those big old army trucks in those days, and soldiers marching. They had the Kaiser there in effigy, you know. Oh, gee, that was a terrible day that day. It was a day to remember.