

HANKS ORAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

Alison Wilson Hanks
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12 March 2002

Dear Blake:

Here is the transcript of the Walsh family history with Kathleen Howell. One of the benefits of doing oral histories is getting to know folks like Kathleen- what a nice lady!

I have also enclosed a Walsh family tree- helpful for figuring out just who she is talking about in the interview.

I hope this helps some with your research on your home. It least it gives you some background material.

Regards,

Alison Hanks

Alison Wilson Hanks

WALSH FAMILY TREE

WILLIAM JOSEPH WALSH

b. 25 Dec. 1837 Limrick, County Kerry, Ireland
d. 1 August 1908

married

Dora Koch Walsh

b. 19 July 1850 Austin, Texas
d. 7 June 1913

Their children:

William Milne Walsh (her son by previous marriage, adopted by Walsh)

b. 16 Sept. 1871
d. 6 Aug. 1956

married

1. Mary

Children: Gladys, William

2. Nevada

Children: June, Rebecca Regenia "Meanie"

Joney Walsh

b. 10 June 1874
d. 20 July 1876

Kate Walsh "Aunt Kate"

b. 1 March 1876
d. 22 Nov 1947

married

Louis "Mack" McGinnis "Uncle Mack"

Mary Walsh

b. 24 May 1878
d. 24 May 1891 ('galloping consumption')

William Walsh Family Tree

Compiled from information obtained from Kathleen Belshan Howell (g-granddaughter of Wm. Walsh)

Oral History Interview (29 March 2001) by

Alison Wilson Hanks Hanks Oral History Foundation 2002 Scenic Dr. Austin TX 78703

Page 1 of 3

Mike Cristopher Walsh

b. 26 April 1880

d. 23 Nov. 1954

married

1. Katherine Collins

Children:

Beatrice Walsh Olson m. Fred Olson (children: Fred, Jr., Marvin, Mike)

b. 31 Aug 1904

Kathleen Walsh Belshan m. Edward Francis Belshan

b. 5 Nov. 1907

b. 3 Oct. 1905

Children of Kathleen and Edward:

1. Kathleen Frances Belshan Howell

b. 31 May 1932

married 1. Al Fuller (Dau Diane b. 8 Jan 1953)

2. Jack Howell

2. Edward Joseph Belshan

b. 29 March 1935

2. Alma Burleson

Child from her previous marriage, Roger Burleson

James Martin Walsh

b. 11 April 1882

d. 19 Aug. 1944

married

Leanna Bruner

Children: Garland (m. Mildred-children, Jimmy & Nancy), Edith, Ted

Patrick Walsh

b. 20 Oct 1884

d. 27 Dec 1951

married

Irene Mayfield

No children

William Walsh Family Tree

Compiled from information obtained from Kathleen Belshan Howell (g-granddaughter of Wm. Walsh)

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Page 2 of 3

Dora Jane Walsh

b. 8 Oct. 1886

d. 27 May 1902

Edward John Walsh ("Uncle Ed")

b. 10 Jan 1890

d. 7 April 1962

married

1. Ruth

Children: Edward (m. Juanita; children-Edward John Walsh III 'Trey' and Christopher Walsh); Dorothy (m. Charles Munson; children-Charles Munson, Jr., 'Chuck' and Cathy Munson)

2. Edith Haller

Richard Walsh

b. 24 Dec. 1891

d. 10 March 1903 (typhoid fever)

KATHLEEN BELSHAN HOWELL

Interviewed by Alison Wilson Hanks
Hanks Oral History Foundation
29 March 2001

Place of Interview:
3714 Bonnie Rd
Austin, Texas

Transcribed by Mattie Akers

CONTENTS

Kathleen Frances Belsham Howell, b. 31 May 1932 (pp 3-5)

- Kathleen Walsh Belshan, mother b. 5 Nov. 1907 Round Rock, TX
- Edward Francis Belshan, father b. Chicago
- Elgin, IL
- St. Edward's University, Austin and St. Mary's Academy, Austin

First Marriage (pp 5-6)

- Al Fuller, 1952
- one daughter, Diane Fuller Harboe, b. 8 Jan 1953
- divorced 1965

Brother (p 6)

- Edward Joseph Belshan, b. 29 March 1935
- Galveston, TX

Daughter's Marriages (p 7)

- Steve Billy, 1970; div. 1975
- two children: Stacy DeAnn Billy, Todd Billy Harboe
- currently married to Runne Harboe
- McDade, TX

Second Marriage (pp 8-9)

- Jack Howell, 19 July 1965

Schooling (p 9)

- St. Mary's, St. Ignatius, Eastwood (Houston), Matthews

Family History (pp 9-11)

- Mike Walsh, grandfather
- Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack
- Kathleen Walsh Belshan, b. 5 November 1907
- Beatrice Walsh Olson, b. 31 Aug. 1904

Walsh Family Houses (pp 11-14)

- small house on Lake Austin- McGinnis
- 3714 Bonnie Road, built 1939-McGinnis
- old Walsh homestead, William and Dora Walsh
- 40 acres on the lake

Early Memories of the Area (pp 14-19)

Walsh Boat Landing (pp 19-21)

- sold to city, 1960

William Walsh (pp 21-27)

- Austin White Lime Company/Round Rock White Lime Company
- British Navy
- Davenport Ranch
- owned property all over Texas
- business sold out of family in 1950

3714 Bonnie (pp 27-31)

- inhabitants
- Tarrytown/Enfield Real Estate
- street names

SIDE ONE

HANKS: Today is Thursday, the 29th of March, 2001. I am Alison Wilson Hanks, and I'm interviewing Kathleen Howell, here at her home at 3714 Bonnie, here in Austin, Texas. I'd like for you to begin telling me just a little bit, your name, where you went to school, where you were born. A little run down on you.

HOWELL: Okay. My name is Kathleen (Frances) Belshan Howell. (spelling) My mother was Kathleen Walsh Belshan. My dad was Edward F. Belshan.

HANKS: Do you know what the "F." stood for?

HOWELL: Francis. Which is actually, his is with an "I" and my middle name is actually Frances with an "E." So I was named after both mother and daddy. I was born May the 31st, 1932.

HANKS: And you were born...?

HOWELL: In Elgin, Illinois. And the reason why I was born in Elgin, is my mother was there when I was born! (laughs) She was a girl from Round Rock. Daddy was from the Chicago area, which Elgin is. And he came to school at St. Edward's when a cousin of his, John Meagher, was a coach out at St. Edwards. (spelling Meagher) And he was a football coach. He also had coached at Notre Dame, but when he came down to be a coach at St. Ed's, my dad and three of his cousins all came with him. So my mother was going to school at St. Mary's Academy. She was a boarder.

HANKS: That's here in Austin.

HOWELL: That's here in Austin. It used to be over there between 7th and 8th and Brazos and San Jacinto. And she was a boarder there. I was married at 19 to Al Fuller. We divorced in 1965, so we were married about 13 years. And I had one daughter, Diane.

HANKS: So you got married to him in...?

HOWELL: In 195...2. Yeah.

HANKS: Was he from Austin?

HOWELL: No, he was from Chicago.

HANKS: Oh. Okay, let me back you up just a minute. You've got your father and your mother down here, and they met here. And where did they live, here?

HOWELL: When they married, they went up to Elgin.

HANKS: Oh, okay. And that's why you were born there.

HOWELL: Yes. Mother lived up there 13 years before she got Daddy back down here.

HANKS: Okay, go through your immediate family.

HOWELL: I also have a brother, Edward Joseph Belsham.

HANKS: And when was he born?

HOWELL: He was born March the 29th, which is today's date, in 1935, in Elgin.

HANKS: And is he still living?

HOWELL: Yes. He lives in Galveston.

HANKS: Okay, so there were the two of you?

HOWELL: Yes. And with my marriage to Al, we had a daughter, and her name is Diane Fuller Harboe. (spelling name)

HANKS: Okay, and she was born...?

HOWELL: January the 8th, 1953.

HANKS: And you have the one daughter. Okay.

HOWELL: And she has two children. She was married to Steve Billy in June of 1970. And out of that union, she had two children. One is Stacy DeAnn Billy, and Todd Billy. And Todd, last year, legally changed his name to Harboe. Because Diane...

HANKS: Okay, so they were divorced at some point.

HOWELL: When. Let me think here... 1975, I think it was.

HANKS: So he's taken her other husband's name?

HOWELL: Yes.

HANKS: Okay. So now she's currently married to...

HOWELL: Runne Harboe. Okay, he's Norweigan, from Norway. And they live, Runne and Diane live in McDade.

HANKS: And they still live there, or...

HOWELL: Mmhmm. Todd lives here.

HANKS: He's your grandson. Okay, he's now Todd Harboe. Okay.

HOWELL: And Stacy is going to move here in the first of June, when her lease is up for the apartment, because she's going to get married in November.

HANKS: Oh, that's nice.

HOWELL: She's going to get married on a cruise ship, and we're all going on the honeymoon. (laughter)

HANKS: That'll be different! That's great.

HOWELL: All of us! Jack and I and her mother and dad and Todd and Brendan's mother and dad, and he's got a 10-year-old son, and his aunt and uncles and some brothers and sister... I don't know how many are going to go, but anyhow... We're going to leave out of Galveston, and cruise on down to the Caymans and back up to Key West and back into Galveston. A seven-day cruise.

HANKS: So then, when did you marry...?

HOWELL: Jack?

HANKS: Is it Jack Howell?

HOWELL: Mmhm. I married him July the 19th, 1965.

HANKS: And you all don't have children?

HOWELL: No. He had two sons, though.

HANKS: Okay. So that's you, your siblings, your parents. Tell me a little bit about... So your parents came back here to Austin. Where you went to school here in Austin.

HOWELL: (laughs) I went to school, let's see, first grade at St. Mary's Academy, and then the third grade at St. Mary's Parochial, fourth grade at St. Ignatius, fifth grade in Eastwood in Houston, sixth grade at Matthews in Austin, seventh grade back at St. Mary's Academy, and that's where I graduated. Now, mother, when she was nine years old, her mother and dad divorced. And mother and Aunt Bea,[Walsh Olson] her sister, lives with Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack[Louis "Mack" McGinnis] in that Hyde Park house.

HANKS: Okay, the one at [NW corner of]43rd and Avenue D? Okay.

HOWELL: And they lived there. My grandfather remarried,[2nd wife's name was Alma Burleson] and his...

HANKS: And tell me his name, because I get lost in your family.

HOWELL: Mike.

HANKS: Mike. He was Mike Walsh. And this is your...

HOWELL: Mother's father.

HANKS: Maternal grandfather.

HOWELL: He remarried, and his wife came in there and told my mother that she always wanted a little girl. And mother said, "Adopt me, Aunt Kate, adopt me." So mother lived with Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack after that. So she was having to go to school...

HANKS: So you're talking about your mother now. And her name...

HOWELL: Was Kathleen Walsh [Belshan].

HANKS: Kathleen, okay. Tell me a little bit about her.

HOWELL: Mother was born November the 5th, 1907 in Round Rock, at home. And she has a sister, or had, Beatrice Walsh Olson.

HANKS: Okay, and she was a younger sister?

HOWELL: Older. She was about three years older. So she was born about 1904. And she, mother and Aunt Bea both lived with Aunt Kate.

HANKS: And she was known as Aunt Bea, I take it.

HOWELL: Yes. Aunt Bea. Both lived with Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack for awhile. But then Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack moved out here to the lake.

HANKS: Let's see—Aunt Kate was Kathleen's sister.

HOWELL: No, Aunt Kate was Mike's sister. Aunt Kate was William Walsh's daughter. They lived out here, and so they wouldn't make Mother go to school so she started boarding out at St. Mary's, and she was a boarder there throughout her schooldays. Now, like I said, she met Daddy and they married and went up north and she got him to come back.

HANKS: Yes. Came back here, and they lived where, when they came back to Austin?

HOWELL: They stayed here for a little while.

HANKS: What's here? This house?

HOWELL: This house. Mmhmm. Stayed here because Uncle Mack was getting old, and Daddy at first could not get a job because he was a Yankee. And he had lived in Austin for six months before he could get a job.

HANKS: So when was this? When did they come back here?

HOWELL: This was January, I think we came in January the 2nd of 1941.

HANKS: And let's switch just a little bit over to this house. Who built this house, the history of the house.

HOWELL: Okay. Aunt Kate [Walsh McGinnis] built this house.

HANKS: And when did she build it?

HOWELL: In 1939.

HANKS: Do you know where she got the material to build it?

HOWELL: The rock from the outside of the house was from the old homestead.

HANKS: And what's the old homestead? [The old Walsh homestead.]

HOWELL: It was right in the middle of Bonnie Road. [where it intersects Lake Austin Blvd.]

HANKS: Really! And who had the old homestead?

HOWELL: William Walsh. William and Dora.

HANKS: You have any pictures of that?

HOWELL: No, I don't.

HANKS: And when was that built?

HOWELL: I really don't know. But the best I could figure, it was right in the middle of Bonnie Road. Because Aunt Kate always said the cistern was at the back of the house. (suggests that they go look) [It was on the side of our house, 3714 Bonnie Rd. It was torn down when the house at 3708 Bonnie Rd. was built.]

HANKS: We may have to wait until we go outside. So this was out on the lake, a big, old homestead, with the cistern at the back, and then we're coming a little bit north, it seems like, and she used the stones from the old homestead to build this house in 1939.

HOWELL: That's right.

HANKS: And she was married at the time?

HOWELL: Yes. She and Uncle Mack. But it was mostly Aunt Kate's money. Okay. This homestead that they had was 40 acres from Enfield Road to Windsor Road... And from Robin Hood Trail to the middle of the lake, where the riverbed is. And my mother kept her horse on this property.

Now when Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack left the house in Hyde Park, there was a little house right down here, and I'll show you in a little bit, right there where the parking lot is. [at 1507 Scenic Drive.]

HANKS: Okay, we're talking about the parking lot on Lake Austin and Bonnie Road. That's so when people read this... They can't see where we're pointing!

HOWELL: (laughs) The city parking lot. Both parking lots... And that's where they were living. They built this house and moved up here and rented out that little house down there. Until the city wanted it and bought it.

HANKS: Do you know when that was?

HOWELL: Yes. I'll tell you in a second... I think it was 19...60.

HANKS: So she built this house, [3714 Bonnie Rd.] moved here, meanwhile the homestead was dismantled. And they lived here. Do you know who actually built the house?

HOWELL: No I don't know.

HANKS: Do you know anything—what are your earliest memories? And do you know if this house has been enlarged?

HOWELL: No. [It was built the way it is now.]

HANKS: It's as is. What are your early memories of this area, or this house...?

HOWELL: Well, my earliest memory is of the house down at the lake. And I remember that it was gravel streets...

HANKS: Were there many homes around here?

HOWELL: There was these first three homes on Scenic Drive. 1600 Scenic Drive. And Aunt Leanna's house, Uncle Jim's [James Martin Walsh, son of William Walsh and his wife, Leanna] house over there where Blake [Tollett] lives, at the corner of Bonnie Road and Rockmoor. [3701 Bonnie Rd.]

HANKS: Now tell me who Aunt Leanna...

HOWELL: Uncle Jim was James Walsh. And that's the house that Blake Tollett lives in. And then there were a few houses up from there, up Bonnie Road about 3600 block. But I remember playing down there on the lake, and then when we came up here, at first... Mother and Daddy and Eddie and I all lived here with Aunt Kate and Uncle Mike. We loved this house, and I still love this house. Eddie lived in here with Mother many, many times. He'd come and go. But it is now in mine and Jack's name. Which we are homesteading this. Now, I remember playing on the yards. There wasn't anything behind us, just woods. We had a big chicken coop where the two houses to the east were. It was a big chicken pen...

HANKS: So it was out in the country.

HOWELL: Yes, it was definitely country.

HANKS: And was, did Scenic Drive exist?

HOWELL: Yes.

HANKS: What we know now as Lake Austin Scenic Drive. But that was like a little gravel road.

HOWELL: Yes, it was just a gravel road.

HANKS: And Enfield obviously existed.

HOWELL: Yes.

HANKS: Did Bonnie exist?

HOWELL: Well, not at first. In 1938, I think that's where Aunt Kate got the money to build this house. In 1938, she and Uncle Mack, and I don't know if the rest of the Walshes were in it, but they are the ones that cut up this area out here. And it's called Walsh Place. It said on your title, your taxes, "Walsh Place?"

HANKS: Oh, uh-huh.

HOWELL: Okay.

HANKS: Yes, because that was the 40 acres that they owned.

HOWELL: Yes. And I remember riding through there, and Aunt Kate saying, "Well, we had these streets cut in here," and none of the houses were built at that time, or if they were, they shouldn't have been, 'cause... But anyhow, we rolled through there. And then, when we came back in '41, well the streets were finished and some of the houses had been built.

HANKS: So it was starting to get built up a little bit in the 40s.

HOWELL: Yes.

HANKS: Okay. Tell me, and so you lived here... a good deal of your life, off and on.

HOWELL: Yes. Off and on, my whole life.

HANKS: And you went to high school?

HOWELL: Here.

HANKS: Where did you go?

HOWELL: St. Mary's Academy.

HANKS: Okay, and you graduated in...?

HOWELL: In 1950, May of 1950.

HANKS: Did you go on to college?

HOWELL: No, I went to business school.

HANKS: Where did you go to business school?

HOWELL: Nixon-Clay.

HANKS: Oh, right.

HOWELL: And then I got a job with the Texas Employment Commission. And then I left—I got married and went to Chicago, after Diane was born here. And went up there, and it only took me 13 months to get Del back. It took mother 13 years! (laughter) And so, anyhow, we came on back, and I went to work in 1955, with the Texas National Guard Armory Board out at Camp Mabry. [on 35th St.]

HANKS: Right. And I know you told me before—you moved into this house, you've been here consistently since 60...?

HOWELL: No. I've been here consistently since... oh, since '85, I guess. I guess it was '85 when we started homesteading it.

HANKS: So you really have early memories of this as a lakeside community, with very few houses and gravel roads; it gradually has gotten built up. Tell me a little bit about William Walsh—his history, because right here on the lake is Walsh Boat Landing. [where Bonnie Rd. runs into Lake Austin.] Tell me about him.

HOWELL: Okay. Let me tell you about Walsh Boat Landing. When we sold the property...

HANKS: (making sure the tape is running smoothly)

HOWELL: ...We had three lots on Scenic Drive, where the boat parking lot is. And the city wanted it, so we sold it to the city for X amount of dollars.

HANKS: And this was in the 60s?

HOWELL: Yeah. 1960. And so when we told Uncle Ed [Edward John Walsh, son of William Walsh] this, well, they sold two lots to the city over here for X amount of dollars, and they sold the five acres that Walsh Boat Landing is.

HANKS: Uncle Ed did. Two lots here on Bonnie on the side across from our house at 3714 Bonnie Rd, and five acres there. Two lots south of us. [Five acres boarding the lake.]

HOWELL: Yes. Uncle Ed, my grandfather, Mike, my Uncle Pat, and Uncle Will. [all sons of William Walsh]. Aunt Kate pulled out of the corporation sometime; I don't know exactly when, but it was quite a while ago. So anyhow, they sold that to the city. Next to it, where the Lakeside Apartments is, was... a boat stalls, boat docks, and a showroom that belonged to my mother's cousin, Ted Walsh, who was Uncle Jim's son. He and Jesse James, the State Treasurer, had this business where the Lakefront Apartments are.

HANKS: Okay. And that was a boat shop.

HOWELL: Yes, boat shop and boat docks. Okay, next to it was...

HANKS: And we're going south now.

HOWELL: Yes. Next to that there was a cut-off little slough in there for the boats to go in. I think that Maurice Doak is the one that developed those apartments and built that slough. (spelling Doak) He was a legislator. Football hero. Anyhow, and then where those other apartments are...

HANKS: The condominiums here?

HOWELL: Uh-huh. Not the first ones, the second ones. We sold that property to...

HANKS: And who's we?

HOWELL: My mother, my brother, and myself. To Greg Gannaway. (spelling name) And he built those apartments there.

HANKS: Wow, so you guys owned all this land.

HOWELL: Uh-huh. This was the Walsh property here. William Walsh, I think it tells in his obituary, when he gave up the Austin White Lime Company, which he founded [in 1869]...

HANKS: And was it here?

HOWELL: Yes. I'll show you where the kiln was over on Scenic Drive. [Still standing, east of intersection of Cherry and Rockmoor, on Scenic Drive.]

HANKS: And when would that have been, about?

HOWELL: It's in that obituary.

HANKS: Okay, I'll look it up.

HOWELL: And then he went to Round Rock, and got the Round Rock White Lime company. [1896]

HANKS: Was here, was the building of the dam[across Lake Austin]—I know that was one reason they used...

HOWELL: Lime, uh-huh, for cement and stuff.

HANKS: Do you know?

HOWELL: He might have been here for the first dam. I don't know, 'cause he died in 1908, so when the second dam...I'm not real sure if they used the lime from the Round Rock White Lime Company, or from, wherever they might have.

HANKS: But he's the one that originally bought all this property.

HOWELL: Yes.

HANKS: And he had Austin White Lime...

HOWELL: And the Round Rock White Lime.

HANKS: And he lived... the homestead. Okay, I'm getting it straight.

HOWELL: The homestead here, and then he had the homestead in Round Rock, [1902] after he left here. I'm not really sure when that was... Let me tell you about him. It doesn't

say this in any way, but this is what my mother has told me. That he was impressed by the British Navy—you know, that's where they go grab somebody off... It was the time, I think, when there was a lot of revolting between the British and the Irish, and dissention, and also the Famine was going on, and everything. They said it real nicely in his obituary that he joined the British Navy, but I was told that he was impressed. He went around, I don't know how long. When he got to Galveston, he jumped ship... And he met Dora at that time. He eventually made his way into Austin, and founded Austin White Lime Company...

HANKS: This was in the late 1800s?

HOWELL: Middle. 'Cause Aunt Kate was born in 1876, so it was the middle.

HANKS: Say 1870?

HOWELL: Somewhere in there. And so he bought this property here, and started a lime company here. He bought—here being Bonnie Road and the 40 acres, which they called Sherwood Forest, by the way.

HANKS: Who's they?

HOWELL: Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack [McGinnis].

HANKS: They called it Sherwood Forest? How fun.

HOWELL: That's why Robin Hood Trail is...

HANKS: Oh! Okay! So that was their nickname for it, not really a legal name, just a nickname. Okay, got it.

HOWELL: Okay. He dug out this slough—I think the Morrisons still live there?

HANKS: Yes.

HOWELL: He dug out this slough because he had 1,000 acres up...

END OF SIDE ONE

HOWELL: ...He cut down trees to feed the kiln.

HANKS: Do you know where that was?

HOWELL: The Davenport Ranch. So he owned the property that was the Davenport Ranch. [Davenport Ranch is a housing development on the east side of 360, between the 360 bridge and West Lake Dr.]

HANKS: And they'd float them down the lake?

HOWELL: They'd float them down the river. Into the slough, and the lime kiln is there on Scenic Drive. I guess in Morrison's property more or less.

HANKS: Yes. And you see it right as you go along there.

HOWELL: Yes. In one of those papers, I think that Chuck that Munson wrote, he said that it was one in Reed Park [Pecos Dr. north of Windsor and Pecos], but that was Taylor that had that lime kiln. Grandpa Walsh had this one. Okay, so... he did that. He bought this acreage here, and he bought that property there. He had property in San Saba. He had 800 acres in San Saba, and I found the tax receipt on that—it was \$8 a year. (laughs) For 800 acres! A dollar a hundred. And so he also had property in Marshall, Texas, property in Round Rock. He had property in the Big Bend area, and I've always said I wanted to go and look that one up. I did look the one up in San Saba, and I know where that property was. It was on the Richland Creek area.

HANKS: So he really was a land man. And an astute business man.

HOWELL: Oh yes, very.

HANKS: And so, did he become very wealthy? Would you describe him as a wealthy man?

HOWELL: Yes, yes I would. I am not, I don't know whether I should say this or not, but his children, not Aunt Kate so much, but his sons, wined, womened, and songed it to death!

(laughter) So anyhow... In fact, it was real funny. I don't know whether you ought to put this...

HANKS: Want me to stop the tape?

HOWELL: Well, yeah. (tape stops)

HANKS: ...Okay. So we're back now on William Walsh. You know anything about him physically? What he looked like?

HOWELL: They said he was a tall—well, all the Walshes were big. My grandfather [Mike Walsh] was 6'2", 250. All of them were tall and big. I had a picture one time of all of them standing, but—at the same time I showed you that picture where they're sitting down—but, I think I've left it up in Colorado. But anyhow, they said that he was a tall, good-looking Irishman. Loved to sing. Grandma, my mother's mother made the remark one time that when he'd go downtown, and get kind of boozed up, he come back and sing all the way... They could hear him coming all the way! (laughter) But anyhow.

HANKS: He was pretty busy, though. All this property, businesses... And so when he died, what... That's mainly what he did, was the White Line.

HOWELL: Uh-huh. Come to think of it, he had some property out there, or Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack did, some property out on Lamar Boulevard, out where Coxville Zoo area was out there, do you remember where that was?

HANKS: Uh-uh,

HOWELL: Coxville. They had some property out there.

HANKS: So what happened then? So he had this tremendous business—what happened when he died? Did he do it through his whole life? I assume he was active his whole life.

HOWELL: Yes. I think he died very fast. I think it was an aneurism, or...

HANKS: Very sudden.

HOWELL: Yeah. I think in there...

HANKS: I think it said something about diseases.

HOWELL: Yeah...

HANKS: "His death being caused by complication of diseases. He was the founder of the Round Rock White Line Company..." Yeah. So what happened then, when he died?

HOWELL: Well, Uncle Ed, the youngest living child, was executor of his estate... No, he wasn't either. He was executor of Grandma Walsh's estate. I guess she was the executor of his estate. So anyhow, she and Aunt Kate moved to Hyde Park. And Uncle Ed, and Uncle

Pat, and Uncle Will, no, Uncle Will didn't, and my grandfather, Mike, ran the Round Rock White Lime Company.

HANKS: Oh, okay. So they continued to run the business.

HOWELL: Yes. And they sold the business in...1950 or 1951.

HANKS: So meanwhile, then, this land has been sold—all the land that William Walsh had is now sold.

HOWELL: Yes. Except for this right here. Except for this house, yes. [3714 Bonnie Rd.]

HANKS: Well, what do you think is going to happen to this house?

HOWELL: I'm going to hang onto it just as long as possible. I said, as long as we've got this house, there's someplace for me and my family to go to. And like I said, through the years, somebody has been without a house—Diane lived here for a little while with my mother. My brother, Eddie, came and went a number of times. We came and went—in fact, Jack and I have property in Colorado. We built a log house up there, and we go up there in the summertime. And then come back down here in the winter. And Eddie moved out of here, I guess it'd be three years in May.

HANKS: Now Eddie is this Uncle Ed?

HOWELL: No Eddie is my brother.

HANKS: Okay.

HOWELL: And he moved out in May of...what, '98, I guess it was. And he was not a very... Never was able to get in to repairing or anything like that. And Jack does. Anyhow, these floors were all carpeted. And last year—the carpet was terrible—and last year, my daughter and granddaughter said, “Let’s take up the carpet.” And we said, “Oh, it’s going to be such a hard job,” you know, to take it up because of the glue underneath it and everything like that. And they kept talking about it, and I said, “Are you telling me the minute I drive out the driveway to go to Colorado you’re going to have that carpet up?” They said yes. I said, well let’s just go on and do it.

Well they took it up, moved all the furniture out of here, and my granddaughter Stacy and my grandson Todd and a friend of Stacy’s, Jessica, came in here, and they got up the carpet and got the floors all scraped, took the glue up...

HANKS: They’re beautiful hardwood floors.

HOWELL: And got the sander in here, and sanded it down, and polyurethane. And they did turn out beautiful, didn’t they?

HANKS: Do you remember anything about what the homestead looked like?

HOWELL: No, I never saw a picture of it at all.

HANKS: Do you know how this street, Bonnie, got named?

HOWELL: Yes. Bonnie Road... Let me think. I think it was Tarrytown Real Estate Company. They had an office over there where Lambs-E-Divey [2415 Exposition] is now, over on Exposition. [Tarrytown Shopping Center.]

HANKS: Oh, over where the Cleaners is. At Pecos and Exposition?

HOWELL: No, it's Exposition right behind the [Scott Broadus Service Station at Windsor and Exposition]... Across[due south] from Holiday House.

HANKS: Yes, I know where you're talking about now. Yes.

HOWELL: Okay, that was a real estate office. It was either Tarrytown or Enfield Real Estate. Anyhow, the man that was cutting up this property for them was named Tommy Thomas. And Tommy asked Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack if they wanted to name this McGuinnis Road. And Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack said no.

HANKS: And McGuinnis would have been their family name?

HOWELL: Would have been Uncle Mack's—her married name.

HANKS: Okay.

HOWELL: Kate Walsh McGuinnis. And they said no. And he said, "Okay, I'm going to name it after my wife, Bonnie."

HANKS: Uh-huh.

HOWELL: And at the end of this alley, where those apartments are, [Bridle Path at Scenic Dr.] was their home. And that's how they got to their house—through this alley.

HANKS: I know we have Cherry—some of the streets that now have different names used to be names of trees, in the early days here. Came off of Enfield?

HOWELL: Well I know the ones downtown were. You know...

HANKS: I found an old map, and maybe it was Rockmoor, and... I'd have to look at it again, but they were all named after trees.

HOWELL: Oh, okay. And then they started naming them after people.

HANKS: So you really have quite a memory—we're going to kind of close it up. Kind of finish up now, unless there's something else that you want to tell me about.

HOWELL: No, I want to take you out...

HANKS: Go outside? Okay, let's stop the tape, and then I'll set up my...

END OF TAPE

Written in later by Kathleen Howell:

Alison drove me down Scenic Drive where the lime kiln is located between Bridal Path and Rockmoor on Scenic Drive and over to Rockmoor where the quarry was. It [the quarry] was located where some houses are now, between 1801 and 1803 Rockmoor. We also drove to Meredith St. where there are some duplexes. 3605 to 3609 on Meredith. Under the duplex located at 3607 [Meredith] is the mouth of a cave. George B. Hatley, the developer of Rollingwoods, bought all of the above property and had the quarry and mouth of the cave filled in. During the 1920's Aunt Kate and Uncle Mack [Louis "Mack" McGinnis] had the cave open. Aunt Kate said it went to the Capitol. She also said it had a beautiful crystal room.

Around late 1940's or early 1950 some University students got lost in the cave so Uncle Mack had 15 strands of barbed wire around the opening. Someone cut them so it was decided to sell the cave and fill it in. I think the students found the way out of the cave but I'm not sure how.