

Oral History Tape Recording Release

I, Orval F. MURRAY, hereby give and grant my tape recordings and their contents to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History Jacksonville State University, and authorize her to make them available for scholarly research purposes.

Orval Murray

INTERVIEWEE _____

INTERVIEWER Stephanie B. Johnson

DATE OF INTERVIEW _____

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

DATE OF AGREEMENT 4-1-94

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR Orval F. MURRAY

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Orval Proctor MURRAY M/F Male
Address: Red Road 55 Anniston, AL 36202
Phone number(s): 205 - 435-6808
Approximate age or date of birth: May 25, 1927
Mother's Name: I RA MOORE MURRAY
Father's Name: Lonnie Easter MURRAY
Places lived and when: 1927 - Alabama; 1929 - Calhoun, Georgia; 1930 - White Plains, Alabama
Education: High school Education
Religion: Baptist Church
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) 4-H Club; Future Farmer's of America; Farmer's Federation
Present occupation: farmer
Former occupations: farmer; pack ammo during the war
Special Skills: Carpentry
Major Accomplishments: State Farmer's Degree

National Events in which interviewee has participated: The Great Depression and World War II

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: _____

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

MEMO

Orval was born May 25, 1927

Mother Ira Moore Murray

Father Lonnie Easter Murray

Sister Bobbie Murray Warmack

Born In Alabama

Age of Two moved to Georgia

Age of three moved back to Alabama

1929 father bought a 1929 Ford roadster A-Model

In second grade two-teacher School closed

School lasted seven months - grammar nine months-high school

Eighth grade received electricity in his home

1935 first radio

1930 cotton 5¢ a pound and corn 20¢ a pound

1930 sold cotton to the gin for \$25.80

Telephone in the house since year old. Company closed

soon after the Crash of Stock Market

Member of 4-H Club

Received State Farmers Degree

Bombing of Pearl Harbor ended the Depression

Father Went to work as a carpenter

Boxed ammunition for the government

Failed physical exam for the draft board because of eye
sight

Ration Stamps on gasoline

1943 got a Fordson Tractor for the farm

Berry Farm, Rome, GA. operated by Henery Ford

Civil Conservation Corps

Rationing for war

Ku Klux Klan being for social responsibility

New Deal taking responsibility but not succeeding

Blacks reaction with the New Deal

Went to church once a month

Paid preacher with their own goods

Always been a farmer

Farmed the land with oxen and mules

Workers were paid 50¢ to \$1.00 a day

Farm help lived in a one room house that had a side room

He would get up in the morning before school and do his

chores and when he got home from school he had chores

Franklin D. Roosevelt being an average president

The book The Grapes of Wrath being a very untrue book

Questions For Oral History Project

1. What is your mother's name?
2. What is your father's name?
3. When were you born?
4. Were you the oldest child?
5. Have you always lived in Alabama? If not where and for how long?
6. Where did you go to school at? What type of school was it?
7. Were you a member of any club or social group while you were in school?
8. Did school revolve around farming time periods?
9. What type of farming did you father do?
10. How were the people that worked on your father's farm payed?
11. Where did the people that worked on your father's farm live while they were working for him?
12. What machines did you use to farm the land?
13. When did you first get a radio? A telephone? Electricity?
14. What type of car did your family own?
15. Did you attend church?
16. What are your thoughts about Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal? Did it end the Depression?

17. If Hoover had stayed in office would he have accomplished everything that FDR did?
18. Did the New Deal offer any help to the blacks? Were they in more dire help than anyone else?
19. Do you remember when the war started? Where were you at when you heard about the war?
20. Were you aware of what war meant?
21. How did the American people feel about Russia's involvement in the war?
22. Did people here fear Hitler?
23. How do you feel the war was as an overall unifier?
24. Was the Ku Klux Klan active in your area before or after the war?
25. Was FDR the best president ever in office in your? If so why? If not why?

Chronology of 1915 -1945

NATIONAL

STATE

ORVAL

1915 The resident population passed the 100 million mark in the U.S.
Panama canal opened officially.
German submarine sunk Lusitania.
Albert Einsteine's theory of reality.

"Bone dry" prohibition went into effect in Alabama.
Charles Henderson became governor in AL.

1916 Troops under Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing began pursuit into Mexico of the maurlauding revolutionary Mexican Gen., "Pancho" Villa.

Power and nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals authorized under general preparedness program of national government.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

- 1917 Congress declared war on Germany.
 Fourth Al. regiment became 167th Inf., U.S. Army - part of famed Rainbow Div. (August).
 First U.S. troops landed in France.
 Russian Revolt.
- 1918 President Wilson announced his "14 Points" for peace (January).
 Germany signed an armistice at Frane (November).
 Program of workmen's compensation adopted in Alabama.
- 1919 Paris Peace Conference began, with Wilson in attendance.
 Thomas Kilby of Calhoun County became governor.
 The 18th (prohibition) Amendment was ratified.
 U.S. Senate rejected the Versailles Treaty.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

- 1919 Boston Police Strike.
cont. Sherwood Anderson's
Wineburg, Ohio.
- 1920 19th (women's suffrage) New census showed Al.
Amendment was ratified. population of 2,348,174.
Beginning of Harlem
Renaissance.
- 1921 Warren G. Harding became
the 29th President.
Marcus Garvey's African
Zionist Movement.
- 1922 A naval limitation pact
was signed by the U.S. &
other allied powers -
Britain, France, Italy, &
Japan.

- 1922 T. S. Elliot's The Waste
 cont Land.
- 1923 U.S. Senate began investi- William Woodard Brandon
 gation of the Teapot Dome became governor.
 oil scandal.
 Calvin Coolidge became the
 30th President.
- 1924 Harding Administration
 scandals.
 McNary-Haugen Bill.
- 1925 Brig. Gen. William First radio broadcasting
 Mitchell, air power station in Al., WBRC,
 advocate, was court- came on air in Birmingham.
 martialed.
 Scopes Trail.
 F. Scott Fitzgerald's
The Great Gatsby.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

1926 Earnest Hemmingway's The Sun Also Rises.

1927 Charles Linbergh landed in Paris after making the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic. Sacco and Vanzetti executed.

Bibb Graves elected governor. Yellowhammer designated as State bird

Orval Procotor Murray was born to Ira and Lonnie Murray.

1928 Kellogg-Braind Peace Pact. Herbert C. Hoover became the 31st President. New York stock market crash triggered the Great Depression.

System of leasing convict labor abolished by statute.

His family had a phone in their home.

1929 William Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury.

His mother, father and himself moved to Calhoun, Ga. His father bought a Ford A-Model Roadster.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

1930	Latest Census: 2,646,248.	His family moved back White Plains, Al because the farm in Ga. had collapsed during the Stock Market Crash.
1931	Benjamin Meek Miller became governor.	
1932	Bonus Army March on Washington. Franklin D. Roosevelt became 32nd President.	Hurricane rips through AL., killing 315 persons.
1933	20th Amendment, moving auguration date ratified. 21st Amendment repealing prohibition was ratified. Emergency Banking Act.	Congressional delegation reduced to nine.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

1933 Unemployment Relief Act.
 cont. Agriculture Adjustment Act.
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 Act.
 National Industrial
 Recovery Act.
 Hitler comes to power in
 Germany.

1934

School he attended shut
 down because there was
 not enough money to keep
 it open.

1935

Social Security Act. Governor Graves began
 National Labor Relations second term.
 Act.

First radio that his
 family owned.

Scheshter v. United States.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

1936 Spanish Civil War.

1937 Supreme Court "packing" fight.

Senator Black nominated to be a Justice of United State Supreme Court. His only sibling, a sister, Bobbie was born.

Mrs. Dixie Bibb Graves appointed to former Senate seat of Justice Black.

1939 Poland invaded.
John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath.
Frank M. Dixon elected governor.

1940 First peacetime U.S. draft was enacted. Became a member of 4-H Club at school.
Belgium invaded. Received electricity in
Holland invaded. in his family home.
France invaded.
Richard Wright's Native Son.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

- 1941 Lend-Lease aid to the
Allies.
Atlantic Charter
Greece invaded.
Crete invaded.
Russia invaded.
Phillippines invaded.
British Maylaya invaded.
Japanese attacked Pearl
Harbor (December 7).
U. S. enter World War II
(December 8).
- 1942 Japan overran Southeast
Asia.
American planes bombed
Tokyo.
- Alabama voted Republican
for President, first time
since Reconstruction.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

1942 First continuous nuclear
cont. reaction was invented.
Fall of Singapore.

1943 U.S. troops helped drive
Germans from North Africa
then invaded Italy, which
surrendered to the Allies.

Chauncey Sparks became
governor.

His father bought their
first tractor.

1944 Allied forces landed in
Normandy: D-day (June 6).
GI Bill of Rights was
enacted by Congress.
U.S. forces entered
Germany.
U.S. troops under General
MacArthur landed at
Leyte.

NATIONALSTATEORVAL

1945 Roosevelt died; Harry S. Truman became President (April 12). Germany surrendered unconditionally at Rheims (May). The United Nations Charter was signed (June). The first atomic bomb was exploded near Alamogordo (July). The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima; three days later another was dropped on Nagasaki (August 6). Japan surrendered aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay (Sept. 2).

Turned 18 and went to the draft board the next day but was decined for physical reasons.