

**VOICES OF THE CAPE FEAR
INTERVIEW WITH KENNETH SPRUNT**

JULY 25, 1995

INTRODUCTION

This is Sam Bisette on the afternoon of July 25, 1995. We're here at 1939 South Live Oak Parkway in Wilmington and the person I would like to talk with today is Mr. Kenneth Sprunt Sr. I want to see if we can get Kenneth to tell us some of the things that are related to his long sojourn in Wilmington and about some other things in which he has been interested in and so we'll see if we can started now with a little basics.

INTERVIEWER: Kenneth everybody has a birth date, and if you don't give your age away, maybe we can find out.

SPRUNT: Well I was born almost 75 years ago on October 2, 1920. I would like to say in a full moon and a rising tide, but I don't remember.

INTERVIEWER: (Laughter) You just said it. Tell me about your family, their background and how they came to be originally in Wilmington. Just give me a little rundown.

SPRUNT: Well going back to my grandparents, my grandfather was the son of Alexander Sprunt who was one of two brothers who came to this country back in the early to mid 1800s, they having two boys, Alexander, my great-grandfather, and his brother, James Mensey Sprunt. They went down to Barbados and they invested their little bit of money in real estate. At that time, almost coincidentally, the British government freed the slaves and a lot of them took to the bush you might say, so these boys were really wiped out.

Alexander went on back to Scotland where they came from and James Mensey asked about to find out where a good place to make a living was. They said Boston, Massachusetts. So he got on a packet to Boston and it broke down at Cape Fear, North Carolina so he put into Wilmington. Didn't have but very little money and he hired himself out as a tutor. In the meantime he established himself and he wrote his brother in Scotland and got him to come over to Wilmington and that's how we sort of got here. That was back in the mid-1800s.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's quite an interesting story. There's somebody else that had a breakdown and ended up here and that was the president of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington College, Dr. Randall. His car broke down. Kenneth tell us about your family now.

SPRUNT: My present family?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, where did you find that lovely girl for a wife?

SPRUNT: Well it's kind of a roundabout way. My father and his cousin, Alexander Sprunt, had a little business venture up around Winston-Salem and cousin Alex was a friend of Ralph Long, better known as Shorty Long, and they were invited to Shorty's house for lunch one day and there's a real beautiful girl there and didn't have any boyfriend apparently around and my father said when he got back home to his assembled sons at the dinner table, he said now one of you

guys has to go to Winston-Salem and see about marrying that gal, I think something's wrong with her. So it wasn't long after that that I did meet Betsy Long at the Debutante Ball in Raleigh.

This was in the late summer of 1946 and to make a long story short, we were married about the same time a year later in September 1947. Nature took its place and we finally had two children, Kenneth Jr. and my daughter Elizabeth, both of whom live here. Unfortunately both have been married before, but they may be getting married pretty soon. I hope so. And we have had a very pleasant life in Wilmington as my parents and fore-parents did. Wilmington has been very good to my family.

INTERVIEWER: Wouldn't it be something if your parents and fore-parents had known the traffic situation we have today and what Wilmington has become.

SPRUNT: I know how wonderful it used to be, of course we were privileged to have automobiles and to be able to get around, but a lot of people didn't. A lot of people depended on the streetcar and that sort of a method of transportation, but anyway they would be surprised at the terrible, terrible conditions we have here and, but it's going to get worse I'm afraid.

INTERVIEWER: Okay tell me about the early schooling. What did you do, did you behave yourself and stuff like that.

SPRUNT: Oh yeah. First I went to Ms. Jordan's school on South Third Street. She had a sort of a kindergarten and maybe went through the 1st and 2nd grades and then I was educated by a Ms. Saunders who lived right across the street at 401 South Front Street. She was a tutor and she took me up to the 5th grade and then finally I went to Tileston School for two years, 6th and 7th grade and then we didn't have an 8th grade in this school system.

Then my father, about that time, about 1930 along in there, '31, contracted tuberculosis and they had to send him off to Saranac Lake, New York. They wanted to get rid of as many of us as they could. Jimmy Sprunt, my brother, was off in college. Peter Browne Ruffin had graduated from college and he lived elsewhere so there were just my two younger brothers left there.

I was sent to Woodbury Forest much before I should have been going there. I struggled and struggled and struggled and then my father was called in by the headmaster, Mr. J. Colley Walker and Mr. Walker told my father, said "You're wasting your money and the school's time in trying to educate this boy." So they pulled me out after three years (laughter). My daddy tore his hair up wondering what he was going to do with this wayward child.

INTERVIEWER: Well what did he do with him?

SPRUNT: Well he sent me up north to school. There was a distant roundabout cousin named Dolly Rutledge who was the secretary to a Ms. Theodore Pope Riddle, the wife of a former ambassador to the czar of Russia and she had a boys' school. She had her own ideas about how a little boy ought to be raised and I think they put a lot of derelicts up there (laughter), although they were very nice fellows. I went up there for three years and finally graduated and then I went to the University of North Carolina for three years whereupon the war came along and interrupted my schooling.

INTERVIEWER: Were you able to go back later?

SPRUNT: Did not go back. My father said “You've had enough education and enough money spent on you, so...”

INTERVIEWER: What did the war do to you?

SPRUNT: Well I have very poor vision and a good friend, William Murchison, was up in Mumford, Virginia, in the Coast Guard and he says “I've got just the place for you”. I said “Where is that”. He said “I'm in charge of a sailboat fleet that goes offshore in antisubmarine warfare and you just patrol out there and you listen for submarines. It's sound gear, kinda new, but you know how to sail, you know about the water and everything.”

I thought it sounded all right so I went up there and sure enough the first thing I knew, I was in the Coast Guard on a little sailboat named the Dryad which was borrowed from a gentleman.

INTERVIEWER: Well that was something that would help running quiet then. You could sound submarines without being known.

SPRUNT: That's exactly right and our first trip was down just north of from out of Cape Henry, just north of Cape Hatteras which was, we don't know it, didn't have much warning in those days, but there was a hurricane brewing and we got caught right in the middle of this hurricane which lasted about three days and it blew and it blew and it blew. We happened to have on that boat a wonderful skipper, boy, who knew his stuff and he strapped it down and put the sails down, put up the storm gear and we rode it out pretty well and we did not go more than 20 miles from where we were supposed to be the whole time.

INTERVIEWER: Fantastic.

SPRUNT: And didn't know where we were, so we just headed west and we headed west and it was a perfectly beautiful day after that you know, when it was all over. And we went on and went on and went on, the first thing I saw was (laughter) the Wright Memorial at Kill Devil Hill there. I saw that and said, “I know where we are now” (laughter) and I said turn right and we headed back to Norfolk. Well I lasted about three years in the service.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's an interesting story. It's amazing how most of us get into things by chance, accident, circumstances being at a certain place at a certain time.

SPRUNT: Yeah (laughter).

INTERVIEWER: Well after the war was over and after you married Betsy and by the way, was there a Dr. Sprunt in Winston-Salem?

SPRUNT: Yes, he was my father's first cousin, Bill Sprunt.

INTERVIEWER: Peyton Townes and I went on a trip during our senior year to Winston-Salem. A group of us were forming a state organization for the National Honor Society and we were guests of Dr. Sprunt and his family.

SPRUNT: That's right, got a son and three daughters.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, in the meantime, we lost Peyton several years back. Kenneth, after the war was over and things settled down, what was the direction that your life was beginning to take then?

SPRUNT: Well I came back. The manager at Orton Plantation decided he wanted to leave and he said that the war was over and he needed to get some help and my father said that I wasn't going to go back to college so I should go down there and learn how to work some. So I went on out, had a little botany which was pretty remote from horticulture, but anyway, I'd always had an interest in different plants and so forth and I was down there. Jim Ferger, who was the manager then, was with me for about six or eight months there and he taught me an awful lot.

INTERVIEWER: Well I learned something new. I knew Jim, but I did not know he was there.

SPRUNT: Yeah, he came after Chuck McGraw left. Chuck was a wonderful fella. Anyway he waited until I got done, a little bit settled down there and so I sort of managed Orton for about 10 years and we had an active nursery and trying to get the gardens in shape and what-not. It was sort of a fun job and I worked like the dickens.

INTERVIEWER: Well tell me about the early beginnings of Orton. How did Orton end up in your family?

SPRUNT: Well Orton started in about 1725 owned by a man named Roger Moore and it was owned by many different families throughout its history ever since then.

INTERVIEWER: Was that King Roger Moore?

SPRUNT: That was King Roger Moore, he was called King for his imperious manner. Anyway, Orton was owned by a man named Miller and Mr. Miller went broke. During the war, everybody did. Orton was used by the northern troops for a hospital during the end of the Civil War and was abandoned after that for about 20 years.

In 1881, my great-grandfather, Kenneth McKenzie Murchison who was from Fayetteville, North Carolina, had reestablished his business here from up north and he bought Orton Farm for I'm sure a song and the house had been in pretty bad shape and he had the house done over and fixed up and he lived there as a winter home. He liked to hunt and fish and entertain which he did. It passed on from him to my grandfather, James Sprunt, who bought out the other Murchison heirs and gave Orton to his wife, Lovella Murchison Sprunt and from there it went to my father and then to my brothers and me and that's where it sort of ended up you see.

INTERVIEWER: I see, I see. Along the way, did...let's go back just a little bit further. Let's go back to the uses that Orton was put to. At one time, it was a rice plantation, was it not?

SPRUNT: That's correct. I guess the first thing they did with it was try to establish some themselves as farmers to some degree. There was not much farming there, but they were wonderful woodlands and King Roger Moore had a water powered sawmill in which he turned out lumber and so forth and the same water that he created at Orton Pond was used to irrigate the rice fields.

INTERVIEWER: I see.

SPRUNT: The rice culture came into this country in the mid-1700's.

INTERVIEWER: This was down on the riverbank.

SPRUNT: That's right and they call those areas out there meadows. They were occasionally flooded by the river and they had to put banking on levies all around to keep the river out because there was salt and create a pond, a dam of a creek. And then they had a very elaborate system of canals and ditches and quarter drains and things and they separated the fields with a wooden box called a trunk and they could float the water from one field to another. When they wanted to get rid of it, they dumped it in the river, you see, on the tide.

It was quite an elaborate system and there's some of the old pictures and maps and so forth show this very, very intricate rice fields. They were not unusual all the way out down to Savannah, Georgia.

INTERVIEWER: Have there been any major structural changes in the house or design changes in it?

SPRUNT: Well Orton House really, it started out as a one and a half story house, there being a high tax on two story houses by the crown of England. They got around it by making it one and a half stories so they didn't pay a high tax. So that lasted from 1725 to about 1840 when it was owned by a Dr. Frederick Jones Hill, a very prominent man in this state. He added the second story and columns on the front of it and also pushed the wall back and made the house three or four-five times as big as it was.

It stayed like that until 1910 when the wings were added by my grandfather and grandmother who made improvements at that time. And it's been like that ever since.

INTERVIEWER: At what time were the gardens that had been created and everything made available to the public?

SPRUNT: Well that was around the mid-30's. There was a small garden there, a modest garden, that my grandmother and grandfather developed and it had some camellias, azaleas and banana shrubs and one or two other plants that were indigenous to the area.

My father, around 1930, and there was a depression on, a so forth and he had to give some work to these poor people down there and he decided to go ahead and make a flower garden which encompassed about 20 acres. He hired a man, a Mr. Sturdevant, Robert Swann Sturdevant from Massachusetts, and he would come down and design most of the gardens there.

It was about the mid-1930's that he opened it to the public and at first I think it was for charity reasons and what-not and later on, I think the first admission price was 25 cents or something like that.

INTERVIEWER: Something to defray the cost of planting.

SPRUNT: That's right and it's gone up.

INTERVIEWER: Well tell me this, of course, it's gone on now to where it has a national/international reputation. It's included in everything that you could ask for in the way of guide books and that, but what is the origin, if you can tell me, of the word Orton.

SPRUNT: Well we're not really positive and sure. The Moore family came from England or Ireland or Scotland or somewhere over there, I think England, and they had another plantation, Roger Moore's brother, named Kendall. Now there's quite a sizable town in England named Kendall. There's a little place right nearby, about just 20-30 miles away, it's not much more than a crossroad, and it's called Orton. The two of them right together, so close together there, would indicate that somebody in the Moore family, maybe Ms. Moore might have come from that area. Anyway James Moore, I think it was, had Kendall and right across the rice fields was Orton you see.

INTERVIEWER: So you have sort of a memorialization going on between going way back.

SPRUNT: But we don't have any record of the Moore's having come from there. They really came directly from the Barbados and they came up this way, and from Charleston, really from Charleston.

INTERVIEWER: How has the house been used for living purposes the last few years?

SPRUNT: Well it's just a private home. We've enjoyed the use of it as sort of a second home really and it's been shared by my brothers and me in various seasons of the year.

INTERVIEWER: Well it's a perfectly beautiful house. Someway or another, it looks like the house has gotten pictured in connection with the movies when Wilmington started. If I'm not mistaken, it was one of the principal sets if not the principal set of the first movie that was made in Wilmington.

SPRUNT: That's right, Firestarter was the movie and Dino DeLaurentis was the man who came here and said I'm going to put Wilmington on the map. We thought it was already on the map. But anyway, you know he did a lot of good work in the house there. There were some things needed badly. The toilet leaked over the living room and it messed up some of the nice cornice work there, the plaster. He said, "We'll fix that" and sure enough he got that fixed and a number of other things. He spent a lot of money down there.

INTERVIEWER: He was quite a character.

SPRUNT: He was a character and he was very generous and so forth and there was an article about him on the Wall Street Journal about 10-12 years ago which I happened to read, and it was rather complimentary to him.

INTERVIEWER: Well they certainly did an interesting and a very real looking façade that was destroyed in Firestarter.

SPRUNT: Right. When you first got down there, the story called for this house being burned and he was going to make some artificial fire around the columns and the house itself and I said, "Oh no, you're not either, you're not going to do that". (Laughter) So he went down and we had a little field with an oak tree in the front of it and it looked not unlike the one in front of the house and he was able to build us, you might say 2-1/2 dimension façade of Orton house. Really he made a plastic mold of the columns which he recreated out of I guess Styrofoam or something like that you know, fiberglass and that sort of thing and it was a full scale house and it was burning down. And it looked just exactly like it when it was done. It was kind of eerie to see it burn down.

INTERVIEWER: (Laughter) I caught the last of that on a replay here a few months back. On Orton, we couldn't leave Orton without talking a little bit about Orton Pond because Orton Pond is just one of the beauties that you've got over there.

SPRUNT: Interesting pond. It was created, as I mentioned, as a reservoir for the rice fields and a source of power for Roger Moore's sawmill which incidentally was destroyed by the British troops during the Revolution. Anyway the pond existed and it has an earthen dam and it had various structures through it made out of cypress I'm sure that allowed the water to flow as the men required into the rice fields, but it happens to be also the home of ospreys. A lot of ospreys nest there and occasionally a bald eagle you see and lots and lots of alligators. In the wintertime, it has a different wildflower that comes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the picture that James Moncreif, Jamie Moncreif of the newspaper took about 10-12 months ago of the large alligator crossing the road down there?

SPRUNT: I sure do.

INTERVIEWER: It may interest you to know that that picture ended up on the front page of the Russian newspaper in Moscow.

SPRUNT: I heard it was in Italy as well (laughter).

INTERVIEWER: And Jamie told me that the thing had gotten on the worldwide UPI wire whatever and he said he kept hearing about a 13 foot alligator.

SPRUNT: Who took the picture?

INTERVIEWER: James Montcreif lives over across the river and he is a man who does photography of unusual types.

SPRUNT: Yeah, I've heard of his name.

INTERVIEWER: As an example, not long ago, he took a skydiving trip up near Maxton and went out with the parachutes and took his pictures as everybody went down. He went down with them. So a 13 foot alligator is very easy for him to have. Let's leave Orton a minute and come back to yourself and the community of Wilmington. All of us have an individual interest in Wilmington. Some of us are interested in our churches and others are interested in certain phases of the business community and what have you. Is there any particular phase of Wilmington that you have found an interest in?

SPRUNT: Well I'm afraid I'm not a very concentrated person. I have interest in a great many things and I'm afraid I'm a Jack-of-all –trades and a master of absolutely none. But anyway it's been fun doing what I've done in my lifetime and I guess one of the first things I did from a civic standpoint was the first treasurer of the Azalea Festival.

INTERVIEWER: Well you go back to what, 1947?

SPRUNT: Something like that, yeah. Hugh Morton was the first president.

INTERVIEWER: Henry Rehder was in on that too.

SPRUNT: Yes sir, Henry was very active in all that and Mr. Houston Moore whose idea it was to have the Azalea Festival, was active for a little while until he died. Anyway we have a lot of fun doing that. I think we put on a good show, I really do. It was a decent fine show. We had a beautiful queen, the first one, Jacqueline White, just as nice a lady as you ever want to meet, who later on married a very prominent man in Houston, Texas and I think my brother sees her ever now and then. He lives in Houston. Anyway that was an exciting time and then it got a little bit too big and I had to go to work by then.

INTERVIEWER: Was it the first year we had Ted Malone here?

SPRUNT: Yes, had Ted Malone and a wonderful broadcast.

INTERVIEWER: I'm going to inject this little personal element into it. I met Ted Malone and spent six weeks with him in Europe during World War II.

SPRUNT: Did you really?

INTERVIEWER: And at the end of the time, he devoted one of the Westinghouse programs to myself and two others on our experiences in Europe and Ruby who was then at James Walker Hospital School of Nursing, she picked up the broadcast accidentally one day and then when Ted Malone came back to this country on a trip from Europe, he made a telephone call and he called her. So excuse the personal reference on your tape.

SPRUNT: Well that's grand, that's interesting. Ted Malone was a nice fella. I never knew what happened to him.

INTERVIEWER: I don't know either, he sort of drifted out and disappeared. Well along the line, it appeared a few years back, several years back, that Oakdale Cemetery was in need of some real missionary work, planning and some things that had been allowed to...things that needed done that had not been done and we needed a guy like you and I understand that we got you. I'm acquainted with what had been done, but tell me first-hand, what was accomplished during that time that you were working on it.

SPRUNT: Well...

INTERVIEWER: Don't be modest, just tell me straight.

SPRUNT: Well I'm going to tell it straight. We had a certain fund, an endowment, but not enough to really do any major repairs and so we put our heads together and decided we ought to have a fundraising drive, I mean a real one. We aimed for what we thought was an enormous figure of a half million dollars. To make a long story short, we did have a lot of direct appeal, we had a very active group of fellas who dove into it and made a lot of one on one calls and we did raise it, about \$550,000.

That enabled the cemetery to do enough repairs. The irrigation system had been put in sometime in the teens I think and it was all rusted out and every time you, well you had to turn the water off every day and somebody wanted to water the yard, you had to go turn on the big valve and it would waste a half of it. So we put in a new irrigation system and then some of the roadways were in bad shape.

There were potholes in them and it was just a very thin layer of asphalt. So we were able to pave all the principal roads there and do a number of things. A lot of the trees were dead and very, very dangerous, had dead limbs on them. Some of them actually fell off and damaged some tombstones. Anyway we got rid of most of them. We're still cutting on some of them. We were able to buy something like 150-200 small trees and put those all over the place. I've forgotten what else we've been doing.

Oh I know, the office building was a pretty shabby little building and the storage shed, the garage was inadequate and in bad shape so that was a Quonset hut. That was removed and we put a nice neat looking building right behind the office and the office was enlarged with handicap admission. Inside, we improved the looks of it and made it better for the staff to work and for the directors to meet and for people to be entertained properly, entertained when they come there.

INTERVIEWER: You have to have a place for the clergy.

SPRUNT: The clergy and for the people when they come to talk business. Most of them are probably sad occasions. But a number of people contributed generously to the cause and it was a very, very....

INTERVIEWER: Well don't you take great satisfaction in seeing the new area that you opened.

SPRUNT: That's right, we opened a new area there and it was property that we got from Mr. Rehder years and years ago which hadn't been used.

INTERVIEWER: The old Rehder greenhouse area back there.

SPRUNT: That's right, and we were able to get that opened. That's been rather successful. We call it the Live Oaks section. We've put about 25 live oaks in there which grow nicely and in a very few years, they'll be substantial trees.

INTERVIEWER: I was delighted to see you memorialize Louis Moore in connection with what he had done and with his family.

SPRUNT: That's right, Louis Moore's grandson gave us the funds to reprint a little booklet that he had made that it told the history of Oakdale and we were able to impose on you Sam for some

INTERVIEWER: I didn't do anything.

SPRUNT: Photographs and so forth to help out and also impose on your good daughter to edit the book and look it over and correct the misspellings and so forth.

INTERVIEWER: Well she as a child went out there with Louis Moore one afternoon and so she had a very distinct recollection of what that had meant. Carrying on with Wilmington from its inception 250 years ago, from 1789 to 1739, well that was 10 years before the pirates came up the river and destroyed the town of Brunswick.

SPRUNT: That's correct.

INTERVIEWER: From that time on up to now, Wilmington has had its ups and downs. Around the first part of the century, as I recall 1900-1910, Wilmington was the largest city in North Carolina. Am I right on that?

SPRUNT: Yep, that's right, that's what I'm told.

INTERVIEWER: And we had a bustling city and as we go downtown, we see many of the buildings on Front Street and Market Street, the facades which indicate the dates that the buildings were built in 1912, 1915, that type of thing. It's interesting to see now Wilmington go back to the area which had fallen into decay in what we have called Old Wilmington and has pulled itself out of that to the point that where the older houses that used to not be able to be sold for any price now command very substantial prices.

SPRUNT: That's right, I won't say the Yankees, but a lot of people like the idea of the old part of town where I grew up actually and they have taken these houses that had fallen into near decay and restored them and made them very, very habitable and very livable and the exteriors have been spruced up to where Wilmington downtown, old town, is most attractive I think now.

INTERVIEWER: Who are some of the people that you credit with being the pioneers on that?

SPRUNT: Well I think Tom Wright was probably the one who led the charge you might say and got people interested. He was able to buy up a lot of buildings and restore them and his son, Thomas, has continued that work. Hannah Block I think has been instrumental in some of this work. Then there are a lot of people that I don't really know, that they moved in down there and have done a good job. I moved out a long time ago, you know. My family moved from downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Well Wilmington itself now appears to be in the midst of a building boom like we would never have believed could take place. Just remember the dark days of the Coast Line Railroad when we thought that Wilmington was going to fold up and blow away and now we...our problem is getting from one place to another. As one man told me not long ago, he said "I go from downtown to a meeting at the university which used to take me 10-15 minutes to get out there. Now it's a half an hour".

SPRUNT: Think of that, think of that.

INTERVIEWER: The area, I'd like to see if you recall anything about... you must have been, let's go back now for just a minute. You must have been about a teenager when we got into the great Depression.

SPRUNT: I was about 10 years old then really. I was born in 1920.

INTERVIEWER: 1930, 32, or probably 28 to 32 as probably the bottom.

SPRUNT: That's right, that was a bad time. That was about the time, I think it was 1932, I was sent off to school at about 12 years old. I was away and I don't know that I understood what was going on.

INTERVIEWER: As time goes on, we are subjected to various experiences and various happenings. Can you think of anything in relation to your life in Wilmington that you think is a meaningful experience either as a humorous experience or an experience that you think you could

relate. I'm surprising you with this. I'm not giving you much time to think, but just wanted off the cuff, if you could think of anything that you might share that was significant. I asked one man that not long ago, he said "Yes, I got expelled from school twice". (Laughter). And that was a good friend of yours.

SPRUNT: (Laughter) I don't know. I had a wonderful upbringing with a lot of wonderful people as a little boy and I never will forget Ms. Lippitt, the wife of a very distinguished gentleman who worked for my family's firm as a matter of fact. I used to go over and see her every afternoon during a certain period and have tea. Well I guess I was 5 or 6 or 7 years old. She lived right around the corner. I just disappeared for about 45 minutes and Ms. Lippett and I would have tea together.

INTERVIEWER: Well I think that's remarkable.

SPRUNT: I don't know what we talked about, but she seemed to look forward to it. She was not a widow then, but her husband wasn't in. Nobody was around.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's a great little sideline. Well we're going to see if we can wind up now and now is the time to say the things that we might not, might wish later that we had said, but the problem with us is we are not, we're over 25 years old and as you get over 25 years old, most of us, the ladies seem to keep going, but we men seem to, by the time we're 50 and 60 and 70, why it's hard to be able to remember things.

SPRUNT: Don't like to say we're failing, but the truth of the matter, we're not as alert as we used to be (laughter).

INTERVIEWER: That's a good way to put it and you know on that note, I'm going to thank you for allowing me to talk with you this afternoon. Hopefully the library has spoken for wanting to put these together in book form as an oral history of Wilmington and I think the novelty of it will be that the stories that are told are told in the voices of the people who experienced it and so I thank you for coming by the house and talking with us.

SPRUNT: Enjoyed being with you as always.

INTERVIEWER: I'm hearing some thunder, I guess we're ready for another dog day situation.