

Elizabeth Yarborough World War II Oral History Interview

An Interview Conducted February 3, 2011, by William McWhorter as part of the *Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II* Oral History Training Workshop series. This interview was possible due to the generous support of the Houston Endowment and the Summerlee Foundation.

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ABSTRACT

Elizabeth Yarborough (née Casey) was born in 1927 in Amarillo, Texas. Her father's employment with Humble Oil Company moved the family throughout Texas and Louisiana. In 1944 her family moved to Crystal City, Texas, where her father helped manage a Texas service station. The recently graduated Elizabeth began working at the local telephone company, Del Rio and Winter Garden. Upon arrival she learns about the local detention facility, Crystal City (Family) Internment Camp.

In her interview Yarborough discusses her early memories of the United States entering World War II; living in Beaumont and her father's wartime employment in the shipyards at Orange, Texas; the family moving to Crystal City; her time working for Del Rio and Wind Garden, and later, Southwestern Bell; her impressions of Crystal City (Family) Internment Camp and recollections of internees venturing outside of the camp; purchasing war bonds; wartime rationing; courting and the influx of military service personnel in the area; and Chupadera Air Field.

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Interviewee: Elizabeth Yarborough

Date: February 3, 2011

Place: By telephone

Interviewer: William McWhorter

McWhorter: This is William McWhorter with the Texas Historical Commission's military sites program. It is Thursday, February 3, 2011. I'm conducting an oral history interview, part of the Texas Historical Commission's initiative known as Texas in World War II, and this is associated with a grant we received from the National Park Service for the former site of Crystal City Family Internment Camp during WWII. On the phone with me right now is Mrs. Yarborough and, if you may, Elizabeth, would you please state your name and then spell it out so I have the proper spelling.

Yarborough: Alright, my name is Elizabeth Casey C-A-Y, C-A-S-E-Y, Yarborough Y-A-R-B-O-R-O-U-G-H.

McWhorter: Thank you very much. And, would you like me to refer to you as Mrs. Yarborough, [or] would you like Elizabeth? What sounds good today?

Yarborough: Oh, just Elizabeth.

McWhorter: Thank you very much. Feel free to call me William.

Yarborough: Alright.

McWhorter: Elizabeth, what town, what state were you born in?

Yarborough: I was born in Amarillo, Texas, in 1927.

McWhorter: 1927. And, if you don't mind, I know I'm never supposed to ask a lady when she was born, but could I at least know the month you were born?

Yarborough: July 17.

McWhorter: July 17. Thank you very much. And being born in Amarillo, that's quite a ways away from Zavala County. Did you grow up through most of your childhood in the panhandle?

Yarborough: No sir, I didn't. I was just, just born there, as far as I know. Don't know how long I lived there. Probably not very long. I grew up around, um, I know you've never heard of it, but it was called Raccoon Bend at that time. It was between Bellville, Texas and Hempstead, Texas. We were about 50 miles from Houston. I spent, oh, most of my life down there. I guess we moved from there when I was about eight years old, I guess. We moved to Louisiana then. My dad worked for Humble Oil Company and they transferred us to Louisiana and I spent several years there and then back to Texas. I lived most of my life in Texas until married and my husband was in the service, so we moved several places.

McWhorter: I see. Born in Texas. You've lived both in Texas and Louisiana, and from our previous conversation, you're in Huntsville, Alabama today?

Yarborough: Yes, we moved here to take care of my grandson in 2001.

McWhorter: Well, that was very nice of you. It's always good to know when family can come and help out.

Yarborough: Right. That was my one and only grandson that I have.

McWhorter: I see. Well, growing up in Texas, whether it be in the panhandle, or the Houston area, or at least the Coastal Plain area, what were your parents' names, and did you have any siblings?

Yarborough: I had one brother. My parents were R.D., Rowland D. Casey, and Beulah Casey. She grew up around Temple, Texas...is where she was raised and her...most of her family had lived around in that area.

McWhorter: Okay. Well, let's see...growing up in Texas or Louisiana in the 1930s, the state – much like the rest of the country – was experiencing the effects of the Great Depression. Do you remember any examples of how the Great Depression may have impacted your family?

Yarborough: No, not really. I can kind of glimpse a little bit of it. But, living with my dad working in, with the Humble Oil, I think I was one of the pretty lucky ones because we always, well, I considered an indoor bath and running water and lights and all of that pretty lucky during that time. And, I had no, I don't know what you'd say,

anyway, I didn't have any trouble during that time that I can remember. We all had a pretty good life during that time.

McWhorter: That's very good. Well, beyond the Great Depression, the early 1940s, the United States is starting to see that belligerent nations, both in Europe and in Asia – chiefly the Italian government, the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany – are starting moves on neighboring countries, and in fact, in some cases beginning all out war. And the United States is starting to gear up [for war]. You're a teenager about this time. Did you remember seeing anyone in your family, possibly a brother, or friends that you went to high school with, talking about enlisting in the military?

Yarborough: Yes, and I had some cousins that went in with the...they were...during that time I was in around Eddy, Texas, Temple, Texas, and I had some cousins that went in from high school, I guess, graduation, college. They were at [what is now Texas] A&M [University], went in to service and they were both in the Air Force. I remember that, seeing them and really didn't talk too much. I was around 14, I guess, around that time, and....but yes, my friends had brothers that was...enlisted and it was a pretty good conversation during that time when you were a teenager.

McWhorter: Did you feel at the time, as a teenager, that what was going on in Europe, what was going on in the Pacific...as much as you could learn, because 1940 America is a lot different from 2011 America in how quickly information can get to us. Case in point, the goings on in Egypt right now, associated with the protests in the street against their government, were you in any way feeling that what was taking place in Europe or the Pacific was impacting you? Like, is that something far away on the horizon, or did you think at that time, nope, this might touch my life in some way?

Yarborough: No, I think during that time I knew what was happening and all, pretty far away, I would think. I don't think of it like it does now days.

McWhorter: Right.

Yarborough: It's kind of scary. You don't know what's going to happen.

McWhorter: Well, on December 7, 1941, the United States was attacked by the Empire of Japan at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Yarborough: Yes, sir.

McWhorter: And that event brought the United States into war against the Japanese and a few days later, the United States went to war with Germany and Italy as well. Do you remember where you were and how you felt on December 7, 1941?

Yarborough: Oh yes. December, we were in Louisiana at that time, but that's right after then, I'd say toward the end of December, that's when we came back to Texas. And, yes, I remember very well how....you know, you just didn't know what was going to happen then. That was something that we couldn't kind of cope with. Just had to take it day by day.

McWhorter: With your dad having worked for Humble Oil, did he continue to work for Humble Oil during World War II?

Yarborough: No, that's when it happened. He...my mother had [unintelligible] and dad had tried to get transferred back to Texas, but they wouldn't let him go there in Louisiana, so he just quit. Quit the Humble Oil and that time he got a job at the shipyards in Orange, Texas. And we moved, bought a home and moved to Beaumont, Texas, and that was when I was in [the] beginning of my junior year. And he worked there for, I imagine, I guess a couple of years until we moved to Crystal City then. His brother wanted him to come help him in his business there. So, that's when we transferred and went to Crystal City, Texas, in '44 right after I graduated from high school.

McWhorter: Interesting. So, you lived in Orange in 1943 or close to about that during your junior year and your father was working in one of the shipbuilding companies.

Yarborough: Yes, uh huh, he was.

McWhorter: I'm quite familiar, at least, you know, enough with how massive the shipbuilding industry was in Orange during World War II.

Yarborough: Right, uh huh.

McWhorter: I'm also aware of how desperate the housing situation was at the beginning and possibly throughout the war – people trying to find a place to live while they have a job in Orange. Did Orange feel packed to you? Or did you spend most of your time in Beaumont?

Yarborough: No, in Beaumont. I had little to do with Orange. Dad would take the train early every morning and mom would take him to the train and then go pick him up in the evening, but we had no trouble, you know, buying the home that we had. And, there, now Orange, I don't know. You might have had trouble there, but in Beaumont we got a home right away and moved. He commuted...

McWhorter: Interesting.

Yarborough: Back and forth.

McWhorter: Did your father work for Levingston or Consolidated? Do you remember the name of the company?

Yarborough: No, I surely don't at that time. It's been so many years that I just don't remember.

McWhorter: No problem, no problem. Well that's really interesting to know because that's a really big part of Texas in World War II history, especially on the home front. And it's a part that's been lost over the decades as the city has grown up, no longer a war, so you don't need that many employees there building ships, and I'm really happy that we were able to talk a little bit about your father actually participating in that during the war.

Yarborough: Uh huh.

McWhorter: Well, you mentioned that he had a brother in Crystal City who contacted him and wanted him to come work there. What did your uncle, your father's brother, do?

Yarborough: He had worked for Texaco. He had a service station and he had the consignee of Texaco, and it was just a little too much for him to handle and so he wanted dad to come and help him with it. To kind of run the service station and let him have the other, delivering oil and all that. He was kept busy with that.

McWhorter: Excellent. Do you happen to remember the street name that his Texaco station was on?

Yarborough: It was on the main street, um, gosh, I don't know other than, hmmm...

McWhorter: That's okay.

Yarborough: It was just the main street of Crystal City at that time.

McWhorter: With it being a fuel station, I've noticed that during World War II many small towns used the fuel stations as collection points during the war, whether it was for a rubber drive or a scrap metal drive. Do you ever remember any of those type of activities taking place at your uncle's Texaco?

Yarborough: No, I surely don't.

McWhorter: Well, thought I'd ask and see. So, when you moved, shortly after graduation, would that have been July of 1944?

Yarborough: It was around, I would say in June of '44.

McWhorter: June of '44?

Yarborough: Yes.

McWhorter: Okay. And you, your father and mother, did your brother accompany you all to Crystal City?

Yarborough: Yes, because he's five years younger than I was.

McWhorter: Okay.

Yarborough: So, he was younger.

McWhorter: As a high school graduate, you wouldn't be necessarily going to public school in Crystal City, so did you get a job when your family moved to Crystal City?

Yarborough: Yes, sir. My aunt, whom, Peggy's mother....that you had contacted?

McWhorter: Yes ma'am.

Yarborough: She got me a job at the telephone company there, which was Del Rio and Winter Garden, a small independent company at that time. And that's where I worked and I enjoyed the work and finally retired from San Antonio in '89. May of '89.

McWhorter: Well, it sounds like you had a long career with them.

Yarborough: Well, it wasn't. It was. Well, when my husband went into service, I didn't work any, about eleven years. I took care of my family, my sons, and we went to...I spent two years in Europe and three years in Italy.

McWhorter: Wow

Yarborough: And, so that time I didn't work, but when my husband was fixing to retire his last service he went over, they sent him to Korea which was in '68 I believe, and I moved back to Uvalde, Texas, at that time. And, I started back to the telephone company then, and worked until '89.

McWhorter: So, you lived in Uvalde in the late '70s and early '80s?

Yarborough: Yes, from '68 to '75 and that's when the telephone company, when they, Southwestern Bell, when they closed down the part of the telephone company then and we all had to either quit or transfer to San Antonio and I opt[ed] to transfer to San Antonio because I wasn't ready to retire at that time. And I worked there until '89 when I retired.

McWhorter: Well, with me being born in Uvalde in 1975, it looks like I got to town right as you were leaving.

Yarborough: [chuckle] I guess so. We - let's see, when did I move from there? I think it was -- I have forgotten the month. But I'm thinking around July, but I'm not sure on that, but I know it was in '75.

McWhorter: Gotcha. Okay, well, in moving to Crystal City and your father helping out his brother and you working with the Del Rio/Winter Garden Telephone Company, by this time, this was 1944, for almost a year and a half, actually just over a year and a half, Crystal City has been the site of a Department of Justice INS-run Japanese, German, and Italian alien family confinement site.

Yarborough: Right

McWhorter: When you moved to town, could you please describe for me what it was like to learn of this site and then I thought after that we might ask questions about what you remember it looking like and whether or not you ever went in to it, and those type of questions.

Yarborough: Alright.

McWhorter: But upon moving to Crystal City, what was it like to learn that this sort of site was in Crystal City?

Yarborough: Well, it was, the best of my knowledge, it was a, it was a funny feeling. I mean, we didn't know very much about it, about the people that, you know, they had there and what might happen if there was always an uprising or something like that might happen. I remember. And, but I never did really get scared or anything like that. I just thought it was, well, it was something. It was different from what a lot of people experienced during that time.

McWhorter: What did the camp look like from the outside?

Yarborough: Well, I never did get over in there very much. We, most of my friends lived other parts of it, but I do remember driving by there and it was just a lot of houses together and seemed like they had a fence around it, to the best of my knowledge. And I never got into the camp, it was just, you know, around it.

McWhorter: Could you see guard towers?

Yarborough: Yes, I think, they did. Because the guards would come, when they would come to get ice, the guards would always be there with their guns watching them.

McWhorter: And were the guards...

Yarborough: And as far as I, I remember, they [unintelligible] with them

McWhorter: If you don't mind Ms. Yarborough, could you repeat that last part? My phone cut out, about the guards?

Yarborough: Yes, I hear somebody trying to call or something and it is cutting out. I said I don't think they ever had any trouble with the people coming to town, far as I knew. The guards were there, but you know, they would get the ice, and drive them on back to camp.

McWhorter: Do you remember if the people coming to get ice were a combination of both Japanese and German people? Or was it just one group, one time, and then on a second trip it might be another group of people?

Yarborough: I don't know. The ones that I would always see would be the Germans.

McWhorter: Gotcha.

Yarborough: To my knowledge I don't remember seeing any Japanese, but I'm sure they must've, you know, had both. But I don't remember any Japanese. The ones that I would always see when I would be passing by would be the Germans.

McWhorter: I see. And the guards – were they dressed in Army uniforms, or did they look more like police officers, like the border patrol uniforms?

Yarborough: Let me see if I can remember that. I know they were in some kind of uniform, but, sir, I'm sorry, I don't remember what they looked like.

McWhorter: That is quite alright. I just thought I'd ask. Well, the camp officially stayed open through 1947, and it was closed in early 1948, and late that year the city went into negotiations with the Federal government to buy it.

Yarborough: Right.

McWhorter: They went on to put a small airfield for an airport on one end of it, and a lot of the camp was used for the site of the high school that sits there today. They, of course, built new buildings over the top of it, but it's the same landscape.

Yarborough: Right.

McWhorter: My question, first question is, how long did you live in Crystal City?

Yarborough: Well, I married in '46. April of '46. I went then, I went to Raymond's home in Mississippi and I was there, oh, for a while. I lived there for a while. But then we moved back to Crystal City in, let me see, that would have been '46. I know my son, must've been in '47. Because my son was born in '48, November of '48 and we had been living there and I had gone back to work at the telephone office.

McWhorter: Okay.

Yarborough: Every time I'd go back to Crystal City, the chief operator wanted me to come back to work, even on a two-week vacation I went back and worked on my two week vacation.

McWhorter: That says a lot about how good of a worker you are.

Yarborough: [chuckle] I enjoyed the work. That was just something that just, like you'd say, that struck your fancy. It just, I really enjoyed it, talking to the people and putting in calls and stuff like that. It was just my thing at that time.

McWhorter: Well, if you're living in Crystal City in 1948 and the camp is being closed down, did you know of anybody, or did you see anybody who bought some of the older buildings and took them to town? Or took them to their farms and used them as barns or houses or anything?

Yarborough: Yes, I did. I knew, I had some friends that did that. I don't know whether I could remember their names or not, but I remember them going out and getting some of the....and I remember, seems like they turned it in to a housing area at one time, didn't they?

McWhorter: Yes ma'am, they did.

Yarborough: I thought so, because I remember knowing some people that lived out there at that time. That was in, mmm, seems like it was in the '50s? Time has gotten away from me. When you get older you can't....some things you can't remember as clearly as you could.

McWhorter: That's quite alright. You're doing great and I appreciate it. Just one more question on people that you know that would have bought structures and moved them off the former camp. Do you remember them ever talking about, or actually seeing it, if they would have moved them as a whole building? Or if they would have disassembled them and then moved them off in parts?

Yarborough: I don't remember. I would assume they disassembled them, though.
I guess the larger ones. The smaller ones they might have moved, you know, just like that, in the whole building.

McWhorter: Right.

Yarborough: But, no sir, I couldn't clearly say.

McWhorter: That's quite alright. Now, living in Crystal City in '44 to '46, World War II is still taking place, and so is rationing, war bond drives, scrap drives, et cetera. Did you participate in any sort of home front activity such as buying war bonds or rationing?

Yarborough: Oh, yes. Oh yeah. We bought the war bonds and, um, I'm sure they must have had raffles there at that time. It's such a small city, though, I don't remember too much of the activities.

McWhorter: Do you remember where you would have bought the war bonds in town?

Yarborough: Yes, I remember buying them, seemed like through the companies?

McWhorter: Oh, through the telephone company?

Yarborough: Seemed like I did. That, and I'm sure I bought some through the bank, too.

McWhorter: Which bank would that have been?

Yarborough: To the best of my knowledge it was Zavala County Bank.

McWhorter: Zavala County Bank. Okay. Thank you! We're working on a statewide survey of all the World War II military and also the home front sites in Texas. And we're trying to mark sites where home front activities would have taken place. So, in Orange, we would be marking where the shipbuilding was taking place.

Yarborough: Right.

McWhorter: In Crystal City, we'd be marking the camp, obviously. But we'd also want to talk about [the] home front, where did men go to register for the draft, where did people buy war bonds, that's why I asked you the questions about your uncle's gas station, whether or not he was ever a collection point for scrap rubber. Oral history interviews help us find out that information along with other sources we're looking at.

Yarborough: He might have bought scrap metal. That, I don't remember, but it's possible he did. Because I'm sure everyone did what they could during that time. '44 to '46....to help the war and everything like that. I know, you know, about the war bonds, and it seemed like everybody was buying them. And I remember, well, I don't know whether this has anything to do with it or not, but with the food stamps and the...I know, shoes. I'd wear an old pair and would go to Mexico and would get us a new pair of huaraches during that time. We couldn't get the, you know...buy new shoes like we used to do. And I remember that. Going over there

and buying a many a pair of shoes. Leaving the old ones over there and coming back in the new ones.

McWhorter: That is an excellent first-person perspective. Thank you for sharing that.

Yarborough: And I remember, very well, of eating that margarine. That was awful. It looked like lard and you had to put a little packet of color in it to make it the color of butter and mix that all around. I don't know whether that's important or not, butit just came to mind. I remember that because that was the awfulest tasting stuff. Have to eat that instead of good butter. And sugar, seemed like that was another commodity that we was low on. We had to watch what we used.

McWhorter: Yes ma'am. We've been seeing stories of that in newspapers, talking about sugar rationing. And some of the oral history interviews that I've had the chance to do, people have talked about not having sugar, not having gas, not having new shoes or new appliances, so, thank you for sharing.

Yarborough: Right. It made a difference during that time.

McWhorter: Now, I know that you met a gentleman while you were living in Crystal City. And he was stationed in Laredo.

Yarborough: Right.

McWhorter: Who was that and when did you meet him?

Yarborough: [chuckle] It's a long funny story if you want to listen to it.

McWhorter: By all means.

Yarborough: Okay. Mother kept a tight leash on me. That's what I call it. All the time, I mean. I wasn't allowed to...I very seldom dated. I just...that wasn't one of my things. I just didn't date very much. Even in high school I didn't do that. But anyway, there in Crystal City, of course I had graduated from high school, so I thought well, I'm kinda independent. He had gotten...anyway, it would be a carload or two that would come to Crystal City and Carrizo Springs at that time during the war. They had shipped a lot of the guys from Laredo to a, uh, airfield out at....it was named Chupadera. I'm sure you've probably never heard of it. It was out from Carrizo

Springs. It was a gunnery range, and they did that for the guys that had...it was punishment. They were shipped out there for a time.

Raymond got shipped out there for sassing a lieutenant, which was a big no-no. He shouldn't have done it, but he did and he got shipped out to Chupadera. Well, this Saturday night I had wanted to go...I had a friend that was going, and I wanted real bad to go and mother let me that one time to go with this carload of...I think it was one or two of my friends, and it was one of the soldiers that had a car that would come in and get these girls and take them back out to Chupadera at that time for a Saturday night party that they gave to the soldiers that was out there. It was a Mr. George West from Houston, Texas. You might have heard of him, he was a...it was his place out there at Chupadera that...he would give the soldiers, I think, seems like it was once a month, this party. He would furnish a band, he would furnish the cold cuts and drinks and everything like that for the soldiers, for punishment that they were out there. Because it was all just mesquite and it wasn't [unintelligible] and, I got to go out there that time. And Raymond had to have been in the car.

This other guy and I met him then and he was kinda more or less with a girlfriend. Sitting in the back seat with my girl friend and I was up in the front and I kinda talked to him and I think I danced a time or two with him. And then that night, didn't think too much about it. But then he wrote me a letter and asked if he could have a date. He would like to date me. And, so, anyway I got an okay from mom and I did date him and then he, it was in '45, he got shipped out to...was going overseas, to the Mariana Islands. Well, I didn't know that at the time, but he was going overseas and he was in Salt Lake City when the end of the war [came]. And he went on over, and we wrote the whole year he was over, gone.

And so, when he was getting ready to come home, he had written that he'd like to marry me. So when he got to the states at the...that's the first thing he did...was get on the phone and call me and ask me to marry him. So I said yes. And

so, that was...we got married then. He went home and it was a month later he came and we got married in Crystal City. In April of '46.

McWhorter: Terrific! That is really, really special for you to share that because your recall on meeting your husband-to-be just flowed perfectly. I can tell that that's a very important part of your life and I appreciate you sharing it with me.

Yarborough: Yes. We were married 62 years.

McWhorter: Wow.

Yarborough: Just over 62 when he passed away in May of '08.

McWhorter: Well, I'm sorry he's passed away, but I do feel that he's always been a very special part of your life.

Yarborough: Yes, he has. We were very happy together and had two sons and of course, we had a lot of life in going overseas and stuff like that, which was very important, and enjoyed it. It was something that not everybody gets to do, live over there for a couple or three years.

McWhorter: Well, as part of our site survey, I'm familiar with Laredo Army Air Field, where you said he was stationed at. And I'm also familiar with Eagle Pass Army Air Field, and they both shared that aerial gunnery range that you were talking about.

Yarborough: Yes!

McWhorter: I'd like to ask you a few more questions on that if you don't mind.

Yarborough: Alright.

McWhorter: Because I may be visiting it this month.

Yarborough: Oh really?

McWhorter: Yes, we have an aerial map showing where it is in relationship to Laredo, Eagle Pass, and Carrizo Springs. And when I send you a copy of this interview, I'll send you a copy of that map, as well.

Yarborough: Oh, I would enjoy that, because that's been a long time ago.

McWhorter: You're most welcome. Now, you said you knew the name of it. Would you mind saying the name of it again and then spelling it, if you know the spelling?

Yarborough: Oh, I don't remember how to spell it. It was Chupadera.

McWhorter: Chupadera, okay. And you said it was, it wasn't as much an air field as it was more like a landing field that they had out there in the mesquite and the thicket.

Yarborough: Chupadera, okay. And you said it was, it wasn't as much an air field as it was more like a landing field that they had out there in the mesquite and the thicket.

McWhorter: That sounds about right for that part of the state. When you were there, did you only visit it the one time for that dance?

Yarborough: No sir. I went twice is all, the only times I got to go. I just...mother just wouldn't let me always go. It was...I was stuck, pretty much home bound, but I did get to go, she let me go twice and we had a lot of fun and I saw him, you know, the second time out there. And he came to Crystal City, and would come sometimes on Saturday night when he could get a ride there and we would, you know, we'd have a date with a bunch of other guys because it was my girl friend married a guy from out there, and I knew some other girls there in Crystal City that had married some men from out there. So, they used to come see us and we would...it wasn't much to do around there, but we kinda...kinda stuck together, I guess you'd call it.

McWhorter: Well, with good friends, if you don't have places to go, at least you have good conversations.

Yarborough: [chuckle] That's about all we would do that, was just usually meet somewhere and visit.

McWhorter: Well, when you were at Chupadera, once or the second time, did you see any structures out there, like hangars or control towers.

Yarborough: No, sir. This would be at night time. And I didn't get to see anything like that. Only the building that we would be in to.

McWhorter: So, there was a building that the dance was held in.

Yarborough: Oh yes, it was, it was a, I don't know how large, but it had a good dance floor in there and, oh, I guess a little place because they would have the, these big tubs, wash tubs of ice and cold drinks. And then they would have all these, I don't remember what they were in, though, at the time, but they had all these cold cuts for sandwiches and everything. Which was, you know, quite a big deal because

they had quite a few soldiers out there. I don't know how many, I don't remember. But I remember the kind of the crowd that we ran around with. It was quite a few of them. I'd say ten or eleven, somewhere along in there. And, of course, they'd have to have big enough for the band, they would have the little...seemed like Bob Wills was out there one time, from San Antonio.

McWhorter: Now that would have been special to see.

Yarborough: Yes, it was. I enjoyed that.

McWhorter: Well, Elizabeth, I gotta tell you that this is probably the most unique interview that I've done. You're the first person that has told me more about three places across the state that I knew of but had never met anyone who had actually been there during World War II.

Yarborough: Oh, really?

McWhorter: Yes. With your father's work at the Orange shipbuilding industry, with your experiences living in Crystal City when the internment camp was in use, and then actually not only, in telling me you'd been out to the gunnery range air field, but actually knowing that it had a name, Chupadera. I gotta tell you this has been a very special interview for me. I appreciate it.

Yarborough: Well, good! I know when you said Eagle Pass while ago, came to mind, this probably shouldn't be told, but I used to talk to an operator over in Eagle Pass. She knew, had seen Raymond, had...I guess she had been out there, but we used to talk every once in a while. And we'd talk about the guys and stuff like that over at night when I'd be working and we wouldn't be busy. And, so, that was interesting, you know, talking to different ones around, when I'd be working. That's one thing I enjoyed about working at the telephone office and talking to different people different places.

McWhorter: Exactly. It sounds like, not only Raymond, but your career with the telephone company, two major parts to your life are points of easy recall for you, and I've appreciated you sharing them with me.

Yarborough: Well, thank you, sir. Yes, they are. They just bring back memories of long ago.

McWhorter: Well, I always make sure, before I end an interview, to ask this question. Is there anything that we haven't talked about today that you wanted to mention or had thought that we might talk about?

Yarborough: Probably not now, but let me hang up and I'll probably think of something....oh I should have said that....

McWhorter: I work the same way [chuckle].

Yarborough: [chuckle] Always say something else, but right now, I...seemed like I kind of covered everything unless you ask something else that I can remember.

McWhorter: Well, Elizabeth, I want to thank you very much for taking the time to speak with me today. You have added a great deal of information to my knowledge on the three sites that we discussed: Orange, Crystal City, and the gunnery range between Laredo and Eagle Pass, and I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to me.

Yarborough: Well, I've enjoyed it, too. And, thank you for talking with me.

McWhorter: No problem at all, and thank you.

[End of Interview]