

Notes from Recorded Interview with James Harlin

Interview Made on March 6, 2009

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Both Interview and Notes by Whelice Wilson, Jr.

Personal Information:

James Benton Harlin, born January 4, 1930, in Bloomdale, TX.

Parents: Jessie Joe Harlin and Beluh Ford Harlin.

Siblings: (his half-siblings) Johnny Truett Harlin, Ina Fae Harlin Edens, Dulan Ruth Harlin; (his full siblings) William C. (Dub) Harlin, Ruby Nell Harlin Wilson.

Timeline for James' Family Locations:

Parents lived in Bloomdale, TX, for a brief while.

Then moved in 1929 north of Blue Ridge, TX, into an area known as Mooreland, where Dub and Ruby Nell were born in the Burris house.

Then moved back to Bloomdale where James was born in the Scott house.

Then in 1942 moved to Princeton.

Then in 1944 moved to Coppell.

His parents moved back to McKinney in 1949, after he had left home.

His Schooling:

He started school at 5 years old in Bloomdale.

There were 3 teachers in the Blloomdale school: Hila White (his first teacher), Mary Nell Biggerstaff, and "Professor" L. C. Clark. Other teachers, later on, were: Mrs. Bellis and Mrs. Richardson, and "Professor" Cox. "Professor" was a term that was given to the man who acted as the boss in the school, like a principal. Teachers were provided houses and were paid \$91 a month.

There were 3 large classrooms, heated by coal. There were room dividers that could be moved to make one large auditorium for social functions, which was ahead of its time.

The grades met in three groups: Grades 1-3 (beginning), Grades 4-6 (intermediate), and Grades 7 & 8 ("Professor's Room"). After grade 8, students caught the bus and attended high school in McKinney.

The basics – reading, writing, and arithmetic – were studied.

The school sponsored plays. They constructed a stage outside the school. Local students practiced 2 or 3 times a week after school for four or five weeks, then gave a free performance on Friday and Saturday nights which lasted 2 to 3 hours. Everyone would bring a potluck supper. The plays were usually about upper-crust city people in situations like falling in love. James' brother Johnny was often a star in the plays.

He attended school in Bloomdale through sixth grade, 1935 – 1941. Then, when his family moved to Princeton, he attended school there. The Princeton school was a lot like Bloomdale, but it was bigger and students got less personal attention. James felt like he got a better education in Bloomdale.

His family moved from Princeton to Coppell in 1944, when he was in the ninth grade. James had been double-promoted twice. He did not attend Coppell School because it had only eight grades. He attended Carrollton High School, on Beltline Road near Josey Lane, at “the top of the hill,” where the building is still located. He graduated from Carrollton High School at 16 years of age in 1946.

Each day he rode the bus to school, about 40 miles. It traveled from Coppell to where Highway 114 is now, then all the way to the traffic circle in Dallas, off Harry Hines Blvd., where the Letot community was located. Then the bus traveled back north along Highway 77 (now Stemmons Freeway, I-35) through Farmers Branch and into Carrollton. The trip, each morning and afternoon, took about 1 hour, 20 minutes. Carrollton High School was the only high school in that area.

In Carrollton, school was hard for James. He was younger than all his classmates. The girls in his class would not date him because he was too young, and he was too small to play the sports that his classmates played. He participated in no activities.

Students at Carrollton High School were called the Carrollton Lions.

His graduation consisted of a Baccalaureate service and a traditional graduation ceremony. They wore blue caps and gowns. He does not remember the speaker at his graduation.

There were 31 students in his graduating class.

Additional Memories of Bloomdale:

In Bloomdale there was a clubhouse where all the ladies assembled to quilt and to can. Families canned beef and pork. The clubhouse had a sink. Suppers were held there.

His house in Bloomdale had two stories. There were four bedrooms upstairs. Downstairs there was a front bedroom, a kitchen, and a living area with a big stove where they ate, did homework, congregated, etc.

Also in Bloomdale was Verbee's Store, which sold groceries, gasoline, oil, and kerosene. The ones who ran the store lived in the back. The wife's name was Patsy Crutcher. That building is still in Bloomdale, although it is no longer a store and is abandoned. It was built up on stilts (cut-off telephone poles).

The Bloomdale Church of Christ was a white frame building, built high off the ground, probably eight or nine feet off the ground. It was probably elevated because it was in front of a branch, and flooding was feared. The building had black benches with slated seats and backs which were uncomfortable. There were many windows, a podium, and no baptistery. Women at church used palm leaf fans.

James' family attended church every Sunday morning. There were no services on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights except when a meeting was being held.

James' father was an elder in the church and "did everything."

Some of James' friends in Bloomdale were Weldon Crank, Charles O'Neil, and Eldon Dunnahue, who was struck twice by lightening.

Other Bloomdale residents who were close friends of his family were the Profits and the Lewises.

Memories of Princeton:

The Princeton Church of Christ was smaller than the Bloomdale Church. In 1942, James would attend church and sit on the back row with Audie Murphy, who became a World War II hero and a movie star. Murphy was born in Bonham and lived around Farmersville, but he would visit his cousins in Princeton. His cousins lived in Culleyokie or somewhere close by Princeton.

Other churches in Princeton included Baptist and Methodist.

Businesses in Princeton included a bank, a café, a big grocery store named Chesey Brothers, and a drug store run by a man named Coffee. There was no town square. The town was off the main road about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

The Princeton School had all 12 grades.

James hunted and fished in Princeton. He fished in Sister Grove Creek, which later was part of Lake Lavonne.

Some of James' friends in Princeton were Charles and Shorty Barnett and the Arlie Myric family.

His family moved to Princeton because his father was encouraged to take over a farm there by Roy Roberts, who managed the extensive land holdings of the Heard and Crate families. (This the same Heard family which eventually donated land for the Heard Museum in McKinney.) James' family lived on Heard land.

In Princeton, their house was a bungalow house with no insulation and no indoor plumbing. It had four rooms.

Memories of McKinney:

One of his earliest memories was going shopping with his mother in downtown McKinney, on the square, at J. C. Penney's, when he was two or three years old. He would go to the dressingroom and put his head up to a window and listen to black prisoners singing in the adjoining jail. The jail was made of stone and steel, so their voices reverberated in chorus.

The town had a square with a courthouse in the center.

There were 4 major grocery stores on the square: Piggly Wiggly, Safeway, A&P, and one other. His family did its shopping at Pratt's Grocery, which was off the square.

On the square was also Chicago Dry Goods Store and First National Bank and Central National Bank.

The post office was two blocks east of the square; today the building is a Civil War Museum. There were picnic grounds in McKinney, the Collin County Picnic Grounds, where the Old Settlers' Reunion was held. In 1936 or 1937, he was at the picnic grounds where they had 35 or 40 Missouri Blue Nose mules on display, for sale. The mules were known to be the best mules for working on farms, but, as his father explained, they weren't selling because tractors were becoming popular. James observed that the transition to tractors in place of work horses and mules affected everyone: those who worked the farms, the owners of machinery, the owners of mules, etc.

His Life on the Farms:

He was born 2 ½ months before the Depression, hard times.

But his family raised everything they ate and good planning and hard work meant that his family often had more than others.

They had to buy only sugar, salt, pepper, and coffee (which was 22 cents a pound). They ground their own meal.

They raised beef and pork and so always had meat for meals.

A luxury meal was his mother's fried chicken on Sundays. They always had chickens because his mother would "set" a hen every six weeks, and 20 eggs would hatch.

He always noticed the meager food that some of his classmates would bring for their lunches at school. He and his siblings always had good sandwiches, such as peanut butter and jelly and other kinds, sausage, biscuits, etc. They would often share what they had with their classmates.

He and his siblings helped in the cotton fields. When he was young, he would be pulled around in a little red wagon. They would often throw cotton into the wagon and scare him.

His father always rented land; he did not own it. In and around Bloomdale, their farm consisted of about 214 acres. Typically, farmers paid 1/3 of their yield of cotton and ¼ of their yield of corn to the landlord.

In 1937, his father bought a John Deere tractor in Anna, TX.

The new trend in purchasing tractors, as observed by James, affected large numbers of persons.

Major wagon-makers like Peter Shely, John Deere, and Paul Studebaker moved their plants to Richmond, VA, and to Atlanta, GE, before the civil war in order to use black worker slaves who were leased to the plants by their Southern owners. This caused hardship for the towns that originally housed the plants.

From 1934 on, his family owned a radio, ordered from the Spiegel's catalogue. It had a large dry cell battery sitting behind it, and his mother usually kept the radio sitting by her ironing board. Some of the shows that he listened to, along with his sisters, were "When a Girl Marries," "Lorenzo Jones," "Ma Perkins," and "Stella Dallas." His favorites were "Jack Armstrong" and "Mister District Attorney" (a 30-minute serial which was presented once a week).

Memories of Coppell:

James' father heard of an available farm in Coppell, TX. He went to Dallas, to offices on Lamar Street, and met with a man named Whitiken, who was president of Oil Well Supply Company and owned the land. It was agreed that James' father would take over the farm. It was located on the south side of present Southwestern Boulevard, across from and slightly west of Coppell School, now Pinkerton Elementary School. (Wilson's note: This same house had apparently been earlier occupied by the Tom Moore family, whose daughter was Martha Jo Moore Cozby, and that family referred to the house as "Harrison Hill.") James' family – then consisting of his father and mother, himself, and his cousin Patricia Edens – moved to Coppell in 1994, when James had completed the eighth grade.

At the time of the move to Coppell, Dub Harlin was in military school in Arlington. Johnny was in the army. Ruby Nell was married to Wheelice and was with him while he was stationed state-side in the army.

The Whitiken farm contained about 115 or 120 acres. They raised cotton, corn, and alfalfa. According to James, none of the family had ever heard of Coppell before they moved there. As he had done in Bloomdale and Princeton, James enjoyed hunting squirrels and fishing. His close friends in Coppell included the McDowells and Joshua ("Josh-a-way") Matthews. James' mother, for a time, worked in the lunchroom of Coppell School.

On Saturday nights, James and friends would go to the movie in Grapevine. James does not remember the name of the movie theater.

James' father bought him a car in 1946 or 1947.

There was almost always a domino game going on in old downtown Coppell, except on Sundays. It was under a large cottonwood tree across the street from the post office and general store. (Wilson's note: This would be on the south side of Bethel Road, before a small grocery store was built, the building which is currently the Coppell Deli. By the time I was old enough to remember, the domino game had moved across to the north side of the street, at first in front of and between the post office and Shafer's Store. Sometimes in the hot summer, the game was moved under a tree behind the post office. Finally, probably because Mr. Shafer didn't think it was appropriate to have the game there, the game was moved into its own little building farther west, south of Bethel Road and behind the Kirkland house.)

The domino players consisted of old men like Mr. Woods and Plez Corbin. They sometimes gambled a bit with the domino game.

Trains went through Coppell regularly, but they didn't stop unless they were dropping off freight.

The engines were large steam engines that burned coal and spewed large amounts of black smoke.

At night, you could see a train going by because its firebox would be lit up.

The trains blew their whistles at every crossing.

The railroad was the Cotton Belt line, which went all the way into Kansas City.

In 1946, the train depot was a typical depot building about 46' long and 16' to 18' wide. It had a platform. The sign said, "Railway Express."

At some point the depot was torn down.

Dub Harlin's body, after he was killed in a car accident in Louisiana, was shipped back to Coppell by Railway Express.

Clayta Harwell's husband, Floyd, was the town barber and cut James' hair every three weeks.

The barber shop was located in a small building which is still standing on the corner in Coppell.

James says that this building was being used in 1946. (Wilson's note: I think my uncle's memory here is wrong. We have home movies of my brother Dubbie getting his first haircut sometime around 1955 at the earliest, and he is coming out of the door of Floyd Harwell's barbershop, and it was located inside the Harwell house, before the small barbershop was moved in immediately to the west, on the corner.)

Floyd and Clayta Harwell's son was named Billy, and he was a friend of James' and graduated with him.

Floyd Harwell always wanted to know everything about everyone in town, even some personal things. He was a likeable man.

In old downtown Coppell was the general store, the post office to the east of it, and no other buildings. There was no washeteria.

The general store had a wood stove in it, with chairs around it, where everyone congregated.

James didn't attend Coppell School and does not remember when it burned (in 1949).

Denton Tap Road was a mess, with potholes that could bury a car. Most roads were asphalt, but they did not have divided lanes. After World War II, things got better.

He remembers that there was a boarded-up drug store across the street from the Wilson house.

He doesn't remember a bank. He did not know the Richard Lees, who were life-time residents of Coppell.

Highway 77 went through Coppell. (Wilson's note: I believe this was old Denton Road, which ran west out of Carrollton, along what is now Sandy Lake Road, and turned north at present Denton Tap Road, headed toward Lewisville. I assume that when Highway I-35, Stemmons Freeway, was built and became the main freeway to Lewisville and Denton, the road's name was changed to Sandy Lake Road.)

When James was about 11 or 12 years old, Dulan, who lived in Dallas, would drive out to visit him and his parents in Coppell – always arriving in a different car because she was friends with Henry English. One time, James opened the trunk of her car and found two cases of whiskey. He stole one bottle and proceeded to show his friends the McDowell brothers and others how much he could drink. They had a cabin in the woods near the original McDowell house. It was located in the woods where Bethel Road turned north. (Wilson's note: This road now runs east through old town Coppell, over a bridge and all the way through to Denton Tap Road. But originally, it did not cross the creek but turned north, passed the McDowell house, and eventually turned back east again, crossing present Denton Tap Road, and going on toward Moore Road, where Bethel School was

located. When this north part was cut off, the two roads became Bethel and Bethel School Roads. The McDowells lived at the corner where the original road turned north; today there is a huge house built there.) In the cabin, James got very drunk and even started hallucinating and shooting at things. He got wet and passed out. His father and Mr. McDowell had to go find him and bring him home. He was sick for a month. His father never said a word to him about the incident; instead his father blamed Dulan for having the liquor in her car.

James remembers that when he was 7 or 8 years old, Whelice and Ruby Nell brought him and Dub in a 1933 Chevrolet to Midway, which he says was at the northeast corner of present Sandy Lake Road and Denton Tap Road. There was a drive-in restaurant there with curb service that sold hamburgers and beer. (Wilson's note: I quizzed Uncle James about the fact that he and my mother both said that they had never heard of Coppell when my grandparents moved there in 1944. But in this story, James said he was taken there in about 1937 or 1938 by my parents to get a hamburger. He indicated that, later, he was told that Coppell was "a way over from Midway." In those days, the small area along Sandy Lake Road might not have been considered in Coppell proper. I do know that what was called Coppell was primarily the old downtown area. At about the time of this story, my mother would have been 16 years old, and she was definitely dating my father then. She dated him in high school in McKinney, and she graduated early and went to college in Denton. My father drove to Denton to see her and might have had to travel along old Denton Road, which was formerly Highway 77, now Sandy Lake Road through Coppell.)

James' Stories from His Early Life in Coppell:

One of the men who played dominos in old downtown Coppell was a recluse named Stoney Kirby, who lived in a shack next to the cottonwood tree and next to the game. James says that when Stoney would eat, he would let his dog eat the leftovers from the plate and then put the plate back on the shelf, unwashed, until the next meal. Local boys didn't get along with Stoney. James says that he doesn't know how the other players could stand to sit next to Stoney. Stoney never had a bath and stank. When Stoney died, he was taken to Foust Funeral Home in Grapevine, where they had to cut his clothes off him. He was wearing a money belt that contained \$55,000. Since Stoney had no heirs, all the money went to the state, probably minus what Foust charged for his funeral. Stoney was probably buried in Grapevine Cemetery, since, according to James, Coppell had no cemetery. (Wilson's note: Of course, there were cemeteries in Coppell, including a public cemetery.)

One of the locals who sometimes sat around the wood fire in the general store was "Preacher" Denton, who owned a ragged truck and hauled things for a living. His wife was notoriously ugly. One day he was complaining that he had no money. Bud Parker, the owner of the store, said, "Why don't you get a job at North American or Temco?" (two

businesses in Grand Prairie that had plenty of jobs) "Preacher" said he couldn't work there because he was crippled. Then Bud suggested that "Preacher's" wife could get a job there. "Preacher" responded, "I would never let my wife go to work. No. If you throw fish in a pond together, they're gonna mate!" There was lots of laughter.

Clyde Parker (Bud's brother) ran the post office. One day a woman whose name was Perkins came in and bought a 3 cent stamp. When Clyde gave her the stamp, she pushed the stamp and the letter across to him. Clyde said, "Miss Perkins, I don't get paid to lick the stamps." So she licked the stamp, pitched it in, and off she went.

James' Life After High School:

After James graduated from high school at 16 years old, he went to work in Dallas for a wholesale grocery supplier company named John Sexton and Company, which sold canned goods to institutions like restaurants, convents, and schools. His brother Dub also worked there.

He met Opal Vanbevers at the Sexton Company, and they were married in 1948.

They moved into a rented room in Coppell, directly across the street from the Whitiken house. The room was rented out by the Ratliffs.

After six months, James and Opal moved to a white frame house with a screened-in front porch located on the north side of present Sandy Lake Road (originally called Thweatt Road), less than a mile east of Highway 121. They lived there for two years.

This house was across the street from the Terrell house, which Ruby Nell and Wheelice rented when Wheelice returned from the war. They had rented it shortly before James and Opal moved there.

While they lived in this house, James was working at Chance Vaught in Grand Prairie and Opal was working at an insurance company in Dallas.

They moved to Irving (house on Senter Road, close to the railroad, a cemetery nearby) and lived there from 1951 to 1954.

Then they moved to Hurst for 4 or 5 years.

Then they bought a large trailer house and lived across from the Yellow Belly Drag Strip between Dallas and Grand Prairie, in Arcadia Park.

Ina Faye and Patricia Edens:

Ina Fae, the oldest daughter, worked in the McKinney cotton gin. Her husband Reese Edens, worked for the bottling company in McKinney and was well-respected there. Their marriage was always in turmoil. Ina Fae had married to get away from her father, who was a typical conservative father of his time, who believed young ladies should not bring reproach upon her family. Both Ina Fae and Dulan were rebellious.

After the birth of Patricia, Ina Fae would often leave her in the care of various friends in McKinney. Her father didn't like that, and he went to the friends' house and retrieved

Patricia. Patricia lived with and was raised by Jesse and Bulah Harlin from the time she was six weeks old.

After James started driving trucks for a living, Ina Fae had moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and was living in a home run by the Catholic Church. She lived the last twenty years of her life there and had become a Catholic.

Dulan would send money regularly to Ina Fae. She would send cashier's checks for \$20 or \$50 or so. By Ina Fae's death, Dulan had about 150 receipts for money she had sent.

When Ina Fae died, her daughter Patricia wanted her to be buried in McKinney. But James remembered that she wanted to be buried next to Dub in Restland Cemetery in Dallas. He and Patricia quarreled over it and have not spoken since. Ina Fae was buried at Restland.

James' Memories Related to Coppell After He Married:

The Terrell house in Coppell was owned by Raymond and Suzy Terrell, but they moved to Grapevine and rented the house to Wheelice and Ruby Nell Wilson when Wheelice returned from the war and he and Ruby Nell moved to Coppell.

In 1947, Wheelice and Ruby Nell moved into their house on West Bethel Road, and Dub and Betty Harlin moved into the Terrell house. They lived there until they moved into a small house two houses east of Wheelice and Ruby Nell's house.

The Terrells, Wheelice and Ruby Nell, James and Opal, and Dub and Betty all attended the Grapevine Church of Christ. The preacher there was a small man named Ollie Duffield who regularly preached against divorce and particularly aimed his sermons at Raymond Terrell, whose wife had been married previously. The Church of Christ believed that there was no divorce and that if someone married a second time, she and her present husband were guilty of adultery. James and others believed that the pressure on Raymond Terrell was so great, it caused his suicide. He hung himself in the barn behind the house that he rented to Wheelice and Ruby Nell in July or August. James says that Wheelice, returning from work one day, found the body hanging from the rafters in the loft of the barn. Raymond had tied a noose around his neck, jumped through the small square door in the floor, and broke his neck. When his body was found, it was black, so he must have hung there for some time. (Wilson's note: Other accounts I have heard say that my Uncle Dub found the body.) James says that the suicide had no affect on the church. (But my family stopped attending there and went to the church in Lewisville, which suggests that there may have been too much contention in the Grapevine congregation.)

James recalls a similar situation that happened after he and Opal had moved to Irving. In 1951 or 1952, they were attending Central Church of Christ in Irving. James was the first person in that church to purchase a new TV. The preacher railed against the new TVs, saying that they cost money that could have been given to the church. He aimed his

sermons at James. James told him “where he could go and what he could do when he got there.” James never went back to church except for weddings or funerals.

James first met Wheelice Wilson in Bloomdale in 1938 (one year before Ruby Nell graduated from high school). Wheelice probably missed a half year of high school because he had to help his parents with a farm. Wheelice’s father worked the hell out of him. His father and mother discriminated against Ruby Nell and they didn’t want Wheelice to marry her. They wanted him to marry a rich girl in McKinney.

Wheelice loved to come to Sunday dinner in Princeton. One time they were all having dinner and the local preacher, named Wright, was there. There were two kinds of pie at dinner, and when asked which one he wanted, the preacher said, “Both, please.” Everyone laughed uneasily because there was just enough pie for everyone to have one piece. (Wilson’s note: In my childhood, my father would often say, “Both, please,” when he was asked which desert he wanted. Now I know where that came from.)

According to James, Wheelice Wilson was an intensely smart man. When he was in the army during the war, radar was in its infancy. Wheelice was a pioneer in the field of radar. When he was stationed in Georgia and Indiana, he was involved in the development of radar. He could have been an officer, but he didn’t want to be.

Wheelice never drank a beer or said a curse word. James says, “I idolized him. A lot of us who knew him did.”

Once James asked him if he had good breakfasts in the army. Wheelice replied, “No, we have shit on a shingle.” (Well, maybe he said *one* curse word.)

Wheelice, Dub, and James loved a certain kind of candy – candy orange slices. After Wheelice returned from the war in 1945, he was out looking for a job. It was customary for the guys to share rides from their jobs downtown Dallas back to Coppell. Wheelice arrived one afternoon to pick them up and said that he had just been given his job at Magnolia. They all went out and bought orange slices to celebrate.

In 1950, members of the family – Wheelice and Ruby Nell, Dub and Betty, James and Opal, Johnny and Estelene, Dulan and Ina Fae, and James’ parents – purchased twelve grave lots in Restland Cemetery in Dallas. The lots were not even finished yet, being in a new undeveloped part of Restland, and they cost a total of \$1600. The family members took turns making the payments each month. Each family made two payments per year.

James’ Experiences with the Union and Red Ball Motor Freight:

While James was working at Chance Vaught in Grand Prairie, for two months or so he took over the job of Steward of the Floor (a union representative who dealt with problems between management and labor). Then he became Committee Man, overseeing 45 Stewards. Then he ran for Chairman, who was head of the grievance committee and was elected. Next he was elected Vice-President of the union, then President. He worked on the staff of the UAW for 1 ½ years; its main offices were in Detroit and St. Louis, but he still worked in Grand Prairie.

After 1958, he was defeated in his attempt to be re-elected. His explanation was as follows:

There was controversy over blacks being allowed to work in jobs other than as janitors. James favored letting them have the same jobs as white men. He said, "If they can play third base, they can get on the ball team." Whites threatened to defeat him if he supported the blacks, and blacks threatened to defeat him if he supported the whites.

He sat in an open meeting with Walter Ruther and the president of the NAACP and dealt with the controversy. Blacks were in agreement with his reasoning.

His reason for supporting the black cause was grounded in the belief that statistics showed that by the year 2023, blacks would be in majority control of the workforce. He says that the 1950 census showed that the average black man was fathering eight children (and possibly more illegitimate children) while the average white man was fathering only 4 ½. His plan was to allow blacks to get better jobs so that they could get better educations, and history shows that when a race does that, its birthrate goes down. In support of this idea, James says that today, 14 years away from 2023, the percentage of blacks is only 23 ½ percent. He claims that he was correct (despite the fact that he lost the election).

After his union work ended, James got into trouble. He got in with the wrong crowd and started drinking. He had been making big money; now he was not and he was hurt and messed up. He could not get a job, even though he was a very good sheet metal mechanic.

Everyone in the industry knew his name and they wouldn't hire him.

When he was about 27 or 28 years old, he managed to get a job at Red Ball Motor Freight, owned by Henry English, who was in a love affair with Dulan.

Henry English put him to working with a black guy in the grease pits, underneath the big rigs. James worked there for 1 ½ years.

One day, James was working in the pit, and he looked up and there was Henry English. English said, "I think you've learned something." He tossed down an envelope to James that contained \$5,000 and left.

James learned to drive a big truck while he was working in the pits. At night, when no one was around, he would drive around a truck.

He then went on the road, driving a truck for Red Ball Motor Freight. But his immediate boss was a former state trouter who didn't like him, and James quit.

Dulan Harlin and Henry English:

"Dude" was a flapper in the 20s. She attended high school in McKinney. She rode there in a jitney, a small private bus that her parents paid for. Her father accused her of having an affair with the driver of the jitney. She never finished high school.

Although she dated boys in high school, she was never serious about anyone until she met Henry E. English when she was 17 years old. She was working in a Dallas department store, A. Harris which eventually became Sanger Harris, when English came in to buy something. They started dating secretly because he was already married. He was born in 1901, and Dulan was born in 1914, so he was 13 years older than she. After the birth of his first

son, his marriage was bad, and, reportedly, although he lived in the same house with his wife, they did not share the bedroom.

English had become wealthy after he got the rights to operate a bus line between Greenville and Dallas. He sold his rights to the Mooney family, his relatives. He then started a trucking business between Dallas, Lufkin, and Houston. It eventually became Red Ball Motor Freight. Many years later, just three years before the trucking industry was deregulated, he sold the company for 43 million, which did not include his terminals.

English and Dulan had an ongoing affair from the early 40s, and the family was well aware of it. Henry English bought Dulan a house near Love Field, off Denton Drive. Later he bought her a house on LaVista Drive in Dallas, and gave her the apartment house next door so she would have income from it.

Later, he gave her a sack with \$50,000 in it, and she used \$42,000 of it to buy her house off Skillman Avenue in Dallas, 5411 Ledgestone Drive.

English always made two promises to Dulan: First, that he would marry her if he ever got divorced from his first wife. Second, he promised that she would be taken care of financially when he died. When he did divorce his first wife, instead of marrying Dulan, he married another woman, which caused great difficulties between him and Dulan. However, he continued to see her for most of the rest of his life.

Shortly before his death, he was living in the Stoneleigh Hotel in Dallas. His relatives, the Mooneys, stood to inherit his wealth. Steve Mooney was Henry's right-hand man. He told Dulan that Henry had an iron box under his bed at the Stoneleigh Hotel that had close to a million dollars in it for Dulan.

Henry English died suddenly of a coronary at 74 years of age. It was suspected that he was given a lethal dose of his heart medicine. The box never found its way to Dulan.

With James' help, Dulan sued English's estate. But Steve Mooney had died just before the trial, and nothing could prove that English intended to give money to Dulan. Henry's own son got very little inheritance. A grandson who was handicapped did receive a one million dollar endowment to last his life.

Dulan was hard to live with. After she got older and was ill, she would go into the hospital.

When she got out, she had to go to rehabilitation facilities. James would oversee that. In order for her to stay in the facility for two months after her hospital stay, according to law, she had to accept physical therapy. She refused and gave the facility terrible trouble.

James would get a call from the supervisor of the facility who said that she had to go. They were kicking her out because she was so difficult. He would intervene. One time, he took his lawyer from Fort Worth with him. In the supervisor's office, he said, "If my sister leaves this facility, goes home and falls, I'm going to own this damn home." She got to stay.

Late in life, Dulan had \$200,000 in the bank. She didn't want to go to a rest home, so she hired people to come in and take care of her. She was always good at managing her finances.

James received a call from her bank, saying that all her money was gone. He discovered that the people she had hired had robbed her bank accounts. They had even taken possession of

her house and were trying to sell it. She was penniless. James took her to live for a while with Johnny in Poolville. He then managed to retrieve her house, but it was in terrible shape and could not be sold. He took out a loan for her.

When she died, she had \$32,000. Her burial cost \$12,000. He gave \$4,000 to each of Betty's children because they had always been supportive of Dulan. He gave \$4,000 to Johnny, but Johnny's son-in-law ended up stealing it. James took another \$4,000 and bought a pre-need burial policy for Johnny so that no one, not even James or Johnny, could take the money. James had spent \$19,000 of his own money to help her and to try to fix up her house for sale. But before he could sell the house, it was foreclosed, and he lost it.