

1969 Interview with **Arabelle Porter Walker** (1886-1971) (daughter of Alexander F. Porter, son of Andrew J. Porter) by **Ed Porter** (son of Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

(0-2:21) Ed, Scott, Jenny singing "From the Dust of the Earth, My God Created Man."

Ed: (2:21) Go ahead and sing Aunt Arabelle, or testify.

Arabelle: Sing some more?

Ed: Ya, go ahead and sing that song for us again. There you are.

Arabelle: (2:34-4:05) (Singing): "I'm just going over Jordan"

Ed: Praise the lord. We can tell the story. Now, go ahead and testify.

Arabelle: (4:11) Well, I often sing here all alone. Sometime the Lord blesses my heart. I ____ my soul full of his blessing, that I scream and have a wonderful time here with the Lord. If it wasn't for the Lord, I never could stand it in the World. He's a wonderful friend and a wonderful Savior. I'm so glad he never leaves us alone if we trust him. I love him and I mean to serve him, as long as I stay in the word. Sometime I don't know. I'm all afflicted and can hardly get around, but the Lord has stayed with me a keeps me from falling and getting hurt. And I praise him for that. I praise him for friends. **Mrs. Waddell** and **Mr. Waddell**. They come to see me every Sunday evening, and that is a great blessing to me. It rained today, and I didn't think they would come, but I was setting there in the chair and it was almost night, and I said Lord send somebody. I looked out here come two cars a rolling up.

Ed: Sure!

Arabelle: Praise the Lord. I'm glad he hears and answers prayer. He knows our hearts. He knows our needs. Sometime in business we don't know what to do. We can ask the Lord and he will show a way.

Ed: Sure he will.

Arabelle: Praise the Lord for salvation.

Ed: Praise God. Let **Brother Waddell** here tell what the Lord has done for him. (**Rob Waddell**, father in law of **Virginia Porter Waddell** (d/o Charlie Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

Brother Waddell: (5:58) I'm glad in 1950 the Lord saved me and put me on this good way, and I'm not turning away and I want to go every day stronger, and tell people about the Lord. I want you all to pray for me that it will go well with you.

Ed: Praise the Lord. Praise God. Let **Sister Waddell** here. (**Hattie Waddell**, sister in law of Virginia Porter Waddell (d/o Charlie Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

Sister Waddell: Well I am so thankful to say that I am a child of God, and I am on this good way. He never turns us down and he has never forsaken us and he, as Aunt Arabelle said, when we are by our self we can sing? I can't sing much, but God knows my heart, and I get a wonderful blessing at home by myself. I'm never left alone. He is always with me. Bless his name. He has done so much for me. He has healed my body and he has brought me home from the hospital. I want to be ready any minute. If he calls me home to be with my loved ones that has gone on before. I've got a dear mother and daddy up there waiting for me. And by the help of God I want to see them, and I want to see Jesus. He done more for me than anybody in the world. A father and mother can only do so much, but Jesus can save your soul. Bless his name this morning. I'm so glad that I ever found this good way. Bless his name, when I get to talking about the Lord I never know when to quit. Praise the Lord.

Ed: Praise the Lord. We've got a big long tape. Mind the Lord. Here Hope. (7:12)

Hope: Go ahead.

Ed: You come down there and see us some time.

Lady 1: I might get down there some time. Me and **Opal**.

Hope: Ya, we would be glad to have you.

Lady 2: Maybe when the road goes through. If I could walk up and down that road, Ed. I'm just so scared to get out on that road. I hope that we don't have many cars. Then we could come and walk on it. Then it wouldn't be so bad. (7:40) (Both ladies talking at the same time)

Lady 1: We lived on **Trough Camp**. (7:57)

Ed: Oh, Uh huh.

Lady 1: Went right up that bottom.

Ed: Oh, you all used to live over in there?

Lady 1: Oh ya. I don't know for how long. Moved there when we lived here. We lived there a long time, and the road goes right up through the bottom where we lived. They tore that old house down, they say now.

Ed: That is back over toward **Arv Oney's** ain't it?

Lady 1: Ya.

Lady 2: That is our old home place where **Arvel** lives.

Ed: Well he built a new house down there didn't he.

Lady 2: He went on down the creek though.

Lady 1: He went on down the creek below where we lived, built a new house. That is right in isght of it though. Ya, we lived over there a long, long time.

Ed: (8:26) What are you gonna sing? **Scott** and **Jenny** sing, "From the Dust of The Earth, My God Created Man" (10:24) Praise God forever. That is good Jenny. (10:30) Ed, Scott and Jenny sing, "Sorry I Never Knew You"

Arabelle: (13:40) Ain't that wonderful what a memory she's got.

Ed: Oh ya, she can remember every one...

Arabelle: Did she sing I've been born free?

Ed: Ya.

Arabelle: That is wonderful.. she's got the awfulest memory.

Ed: I guess you know ____ (14:19)

Arabelle: (14:23) I never dreamed that you folks were comin. The dog, he always barks when he sees anybody. There's a car. I wonder who in the world? I didn't know him, when he got out. Who is that boy? He has grown so. Not Arney, but?

Ed: Ed.

Arabelle: How is **Arney (Porter, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)**, alright?

Ed: Getting along good.

Arabelle: Has he ever had his revivals?

Ed: Ya.

Arabelle: He told me he was holding revivals, in a big garage or something.

Ed: I don't know about that, whether he had that there or not. (Ed comments to Arabelle about her dog about 5 times, because she was hard of hearing)

Arabelle: I said to my brother one day, "**Charlie**, it's bad". He said, "I don't know that it is so bad. There is so much a goin on, you'd be better off not to hear it."

Ed: That's right. (laughing)

Arabelle: They bought tombstones for **Charlie's (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** grave. Six hundred dollars. A great big one. Dad (her husband **Boone Walker**?) told me to sell the place and buy a tombstone for the grave. There was a man come here the other day to buy my place, and I priced it to him. He said I will have to have a little time to think about it, and he never come back no more for about a week or two, and I just about got out of the notion.

The other night he come, and he said, "Well the barn is about to fall down, would you take \$500.00 for it?" I said, "No, I won't, I'm just about out of the notion."

"Well," he said, "Will you take \$800.00?" I said, "Yes I'll take that, I reckon."

So he said, "I'll be back with the money _____."

He said that I could live here as long as I live. He would build him a little small house up in the garden. We'd be close neighbors. He's got three children. Oldest one is nine years old. He's got a little girl, they are both in school. They go to _____. Pray for me that we make a success in getting along, and be good neighbors. I don't know much about 'em. He married a woman down about Grayson, a fine looking woman. I don't know 'em much. I don't know him too well. But if we make a deal, I hope it will be a success.

I've been talking to the Lord about it, and asking him to direct me in business and to help me to make it a success.

Ed: Why sure. Praise God.

Arabelle: I don't know whether it is the best or not.

Ed: Well that's the thing.

Arabelle: The Home Agent (17:43) was here and wanted me to go live with somebody. (17:45 static) She had raised some chickens. You know, there's no place like home. I'd rather be at home as anywhere, as long as I can. I hope the Lord will see fit to take me right from my own home. I'd rather go from here, as anywhere in the world.

Poor old Dad (**Boone Walker**, her husband), he always said, he liked home. Said, one night, when he was bad sick, but he was in his right mind, at that time, he said, "If the Lord calls me, I'm ready to go."

Ed: Ya, praise God.

Arabelle: Were you at his funeral?

Ed: No, I didn't get to go.

Arabelle: The preacher preached a wonderful sermon that day that I've ever heard inside of 70 years. (19:00) I heard several say it was just like a camp meeting. **Arney Day**? and **Senia Erwin's** (d/o Frances Keaton, d/o Jasper Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) little girl, they sang (19:14) "Fly Away?" That

was his favorite song.

Charlie Vansant, and **Harlan Porter** and **Dewey Isom** sang _ (19:25) __. His favorite song. I forgot what it was. Seemed like everybody enjoyed it. It didn't seem like a funeral. And I said to my nephew _____ the best day, and I couldn't hear too good. He said, "Well, he had something to preach from."(20:20)

Ed: Amen. And that's true. That's right.

Arabelle: He told about Dad, and how he liked children, and how he worked for the **Orphan's Home**. He would get out and beg money for the orphan's home. After he got to where he wasn't able to get out and get money, he gave his own money.

They told how he was converted in 1907, out at the **Old Fairview Church**. And he knew him all his life. He preached, as I said, an awful good sermon. (20:53)

Arabelle: I know but oh, I know you would. I thought about your home. I wrote to **Geneva** (d/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) the other morning when it was awful cold. My house is awful cold. I wrote to **Geneva** and I told her I would give her \$50.00 of my check if she would let me come and stay with her. She wrote back and she said, "I can't keep you." Said she wasn't feeling very well. She told about several that was sick ____ (21:40) I wrote back. She didn't call me, she just called me by ____ (21:47) I wrote to her and told her, "I'm sorry that you are sick." But I don't guess I would have come with you ____ (21:58) (laughing) I wrote her a nice letter though.

Ed: Well Neve (**Geneva**) is sick.

Arabelle: There's no place like home if you didn't share it with anyone. ____ (22:16) I don't know what's ahead for me. I don't know.

Ed: Well you come on stay with me and her (**Hope Porter**, wife of Ed).

Arabelle: Thank you for your invitation. You've got a fine home. You have no idea how I suffer and sometimes in the night I scream out and holler, "Lord help me, I pray."

Bert was up here one night. And I couldn't keep from calling and praying to the Lord. And I said to him, nobody knows how I suffer. He said "I do."

I know if I sell my home, I can stay here as long as I live, as long as I want to. But I don't know what's ahead for me. If it is God's will, I hope he will slip me away from my own little home. I'd rather go from home any day, if I can. _____ (-23:56) I've got somebody to lean on. Just got one brother living. (**Everett Porter**, son of Alex, son of Andrew J. Porter). One half brother (**Harlan Porter**, son of Alex). That Everett is awful good to me. But he, I don't know. (24:20) I know you have a beautiful home.

Hope (Ed's wife): ...plenty of room.

Arabelle: Well that is wonderful. I know you've got a beautiful home, but I'd be an awful burden. You don't have no idea how I ____ (24:40) **Clyde Porter's** (s/o Harlan, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) wife come over here, and she begged me, and she begged me, she wrote the nicest letter, she had me a cryin, begging me, but there is seven in the family. She said, "I'll give you a room and a lot, they ain't got no bath?(25:00). She said, "I will wait on you just like I would my mother. They all love you every one of them, **Clyde** and **Angie**? and all of them." They begged me to go. I never gave them no answer. I'd go because there is so many of them. She is the sweetest woman, just as kind and good as they can be. But they've got four children, and her sister, and her and **Clyde** makes seven of them. That's a big family.

Ed: Oh it is, ya.

Arabelle: **Arlene Gooden** (25:34) she wrote the nicest letter ever you read. Begging me, please go to the _____ (25:40). But I didn't tell her that I'd go. The doctor says that I've got kidney infection. (25:58) I'm up all through the night. I get lonely. I've shed many tears. _____ (26:25) That man says you ought to have a hernia? (26:30) (Jenny playing with Arabelle's dog) (27:02) I'm deaf, and I'll soon be 82 years old. I sing that song, "I Want to Go See My Mansion." And I like to sing "How he shed his precious blood for me." That's my favorite song I like to sing. I often sing at home, and the Lord blesses my heart. Have you got well?

Ed: Ya.

Arabelle: (27:48) I never dreamed of you comin. Isn't it wonderful how the Lord answers prayer? I was setting there feeling so blue. I said Lord, send somebody. Just in a minute here you drove up. I never dreamed you was supposed to come. (28:12) END

(28:12-34:36) **Ed Porter** (s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) & Hope with her sister Augustine