

1969 Interview with Arabelle Porter Walker (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)

Arabelle: 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. Who is that boy? He has grown so. Not Arney, but?

Ed: Ed.

Arabelle: How is Arney, 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. (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: (laughing)

Arabelle: They bought tombstones for Charlie's 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. 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 month 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.

My poor old Dad (**Alex Porter**), 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. (That was about 9 years before Ed was born)

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 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.

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).

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). One half brother (Harlan, son of Alex). That Everett is awful good to me. I don't know.

(24:20) ...wonderful home. I know I'd be an awful burden.

Hope: ...plenty of room.

Arabelle: Well that is wonderful, but I'd be an awful burden. (24:40) Clyde? Porter's wife come over here, and she begged me, and she begged me, she wrote the nicest letter, she had me a cryin. 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 thing, 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. (25:58-26:25?) 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