

James Burton

Q: Now I got it. OK.

JAMES SAMUEL BURTON: Testing, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Q: OK. Before we start, I just wanted you to state your full name, and today's date, which is what, the third, November 3rd?

JSB: OK.

Q: OK.

JSB: James Samuel Burton.

Q: And today's date?

JSB: Third of November, 2000.

Q: OK. The first question I want to ask you is where were you born?

JSB: Abbeville, South Carolina.

Q: And your parents' name?

JSB: William and [Willie?] Burton.

Q: And they were both born in Abbeville?

JSB: Not sure. Mother was born in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Q: And your father was born in?

JSB: Not sure. I think he was born in and around Cherokee,

North Carolina. I'm not sure. But then again, it might be Abbeville, so I'm not sure. Tracing that now.

Q: When did you first arrive in Evanston?

JSB: Probably in 1943.

Q: OK, some of the questions I'll ask you, I'm going to ask you things that, you know, when you're growing up in Evanston and the things that you experienced in Evanston, the schools you go on to. When I ask these questions, expound on them as much as you'd like to.

JSB: OK.

Q: OK? Yes and no questions are fine, but if you expound on it, you know, name places, people, things, dates.

JSB: OK.

Q: The more accurate, the better.

JSB: OK.

Q: OK? Why did you come to Evanston?

JSB: I was two years old, so I really don't know. There was economics and it probably was moving from the South to the North because there were jobs in the North.

Q: What did your parents do when they came up here to Evanston, did they work up here in Evanston?

JSB: My father worked for Phillips Petroleum at a gas station, towing cars and so forth. And he was killed in '44 in a

car accident. And he was towing a car and somebody came around the corner and hit the tow truck that he was lifting the car up on, and it kind of crushed him in between. That was in '44.

Q: And what did your mom do?

JSB: My mother worked for Best Taxi as a dispatcher. And she worked for Better Cab. Now, we are going back a lot of years and I can't really say before that, being two or three years old. I really don't know, but it's my first recollection is she worked for Best Taxi on Foster and Green Bay Road as a dispatcher, a night dispatcher.

Q: What was it like growing up in Evanston from age three on to, let's say, through high school?

JSB: Well, it was fine. You really didn't realize a lot of things about Evanston because you were confined more or less to the west side by your own confinement. I went to Foster School, graduated Foster School in sixth grade. Had some good teachers in Foster School and some great people that graduated out of Foster School, ex-police chief or firemen. There was an admiral in the Navy. So, graduates from Foster School have gone on to do great things in life. Foster was an all-black school. And I'm trying to remember we had, I think we had two black teachers in Foster School

in the system. That was [Ms. Brownlee?] and [Charles Bouyer?], who was the physical education teacher. And at night activities, there was Homer Fleetwood and a Miss Wilson. And that rounded out our night activities. Foster or Fleetwood-Jourdain at that time was just in a green field house in a middle of a field. And they had a lot of activities at night that carried over from [00:05:00] the Foster school activities room at night. They'd have softball or volleyball, but it all stemmed from Miss Wilson and Mr. Fleetwood. And then in the wintertime, they would have ice-skating, which you would use the small green field house. Halloween, they'd have a large bonfire, which was all the neighborhood kids came, I mean, from everywhere. And I think the confines were like the canal, Green Bay Road, and there was a few blacks living east of Green Bay Road. I think Lake Street, and then around Main Street, there were a few blacks. But the majority of blacks were confined between Lake, the canal, and McCormick, and I guess, Hartrey because the other streets wasn't really together then, and Hartrey. McDaniel, and all of that was just a swamp area by the canal all the out into Skokie for six or seven miles in Skokie, there was nothing but fields and swamp land out there during this time. I graduated

from Foster and went on to Haven, where I graduated. And then on to Evanston High School, which I graduated from. From there, I went to the Air Force, came back to Evanston in the early '60s, and stayed for about nine months and moved to New York and lived in Greenwich Village, and was an artist for three or four years there, painting portraits. Stayed there for, I guess, off and on, for about 14 years. And then moved to Los Angeles, oh, from around '74, permanently, '74 until '79 when my mother got sick and I returned back to Evanston to take care of her.

Q: What was your experience like in Evanston Township, was it just going to school and going home, or did you, were you ever involved in activities?

JSB: I participated in football and intramural basketball. Evanston High School was very racial then and there was like a separation. We had one school, and Dr. Michaels was the principal. And he and I had our problems about out-of-race dating at that time or going out with people. We had our problems. I think I was suspended a couple of times for it. And what's so ironic about all that, I seen Dr. Michaels when I returned from Los Angeles in '79 at the old Dominick's store up on Church Street. And he recognized me immediately after all these years. And he said, first

thing he said, "Are you still going with girls outside your race?" And that was his only words to me. And he called me by name, "Mr. Burton, are you still going with girls outside your race?" But Evanston was, it was a total separation. And it was there, it just wasn't said, but it was there. And I think maybe in '57 and '58, they started to boycott the homecoming because all the started athletes one year was demoted to second string so they could, could not walk down the aisle with the prom queen and the princesses because the starting lineup were all black, and then they couldn't tolerate that, you know. So, they, I think they wanted to boycott a homecoming game because of that, I think it was '57, it was, the Waukegan game. I can't give you specific dates, but it was '57, probably October, and during homecoming, they wanted to boycott the game. That was, during that time, Skip James was there, Jackie Galloway, Thomas Mims, Woody Connor. So, they had some great players during that time that was going to give up a homecoming game to say, hey, you know, treat us equally. You treat us equally on the football field when we're winning, but come time for homecoming, and then this sets this major demotion of everybody for one night, you know. So, and I really don't think it came to pass, but it

was threatened at that time that, a full walk-out. And I think the guys was slow responding to the field that Saturday morning. I think they waited till the eleventh-and-a-half hour before they decided to go, you know. But our mentor then in sports was Mr. Bouyer. [00:10:00] He instilled integrity in you, the will to win, which is not visible anymore. One of his pet quotes were, a winner never quits, and a quitter never wins. And that was just kind of pounded into you from the second grade at Foster school all the way to sixth grade till you graduated Foster school. And he was just a heck of a role model for most kids. If you talk to people who knew him, or you talk about a role model at that, in that time frame, Charles Bouyer would jump out. He and Bull Price would jump right after you. He could throw a volleyball 50 yards and hit you, or a broomstick. He used to teach swimming at the Y and couldn't swim. He was just an incredible person, who would want you, he would make you want to win, at all costs. I mean, and it's not about winning is everything, but he would make you want to win, to be the best that you could be, to the best of your ability. And that's kind of the individual he was. He just, he's got you pumped up, you know, he's a rah-rah person. And like I said,

Evanston, growing up, the Varsity, Valencia and Coronet Theatres were segregated. You had to sit in the balcony. But you couldn't sit at the Five-and-Dime store, that was, at the counter, that was segregated. But being six, seven, eight years old, you are not really aware of what's going on. If an adult tells you can't do this, then you'll just respond. And especially if a white adult, black adult, whatever. But if an adult tells you something in those days, where you can't sit at this counter or you have to sit upstairs, you respond because this is an adult speaking and you were taught, you respect adults. Now, if my grandfather Sam was around, he had great disdain for white people. I mean, total disdain. And it would have probably been some serious complications if he had been here during the '40s because he didn't back down and from anything or anybody. And he just had a -- just a heart full of hate for whites. And I didn't understand that at the time. But now that I've gotten older, now I understand why he had so much hate because I understand what he went through as a young, as a young person in the South dealing with white Americans at that time.

Q: While you were growing up in Evanston, did you attend any of the churches here?

JSB: Second Baptist. And there was a Reverend Hawk, who was the minister. And I think it was Nathan Hawk.

Q: Were you involved in the church activities like choir or anything?

JSB: I, really involved in, I guess, bible class early in the morning, and then regular church in the afternoon. And I think that was basically my involvement. And that was a few prerequisite growing up, be at Baptist bible school in the morning and church.

Q: How about any organizations, clubs?

JSB: Boy Scouts. I belonged to the Y. We had a black Y on Evanston Street. And the Cub Scouts. And that was basically it. And I had a paper route early in the morning, so it just, not too much you could do. And one of the mainstays, [Jim Avery?], who is no longer with us, he ran the *Tribune* Company down when Foster put in the elevator train, and that's where the paper branch was. And I think I was about eight years old, I had my first paper route, you know. And I did that and, oh, until I got out Haven and went into freshman in high school.

Q: So, you consider it like your first job?

JSB: That was my first job. Then I worked for the city one summer laying asphalt on streets and that was probably the

toughest job because we were just kids. And there were no blacks other than the kids working at that time. Mostly the street people who poured asphalt or put streets in were all white. And are 13 and 14-year-old kids pushing these heavy wheelbarrows full of asphalt and things. And that was tough, [00:15:00] that was really tough, yeah.

Q: What did you do for fun growing up as a kid in Evanston?

JSB: Well, I've always been, more or less, a naturalist. I've always loved animals. I mean, I'd catch small animals and take care of them, doctor on them. I did, used to draw a lot, the comic books or the news, Sunday newspaper, the comic section of the newspaper. And that was basically my time. And then listening to music, you know, the old 45's. A friend of mine, [Skip James?], had a Lionel train set, very extensive. We'd go over there and we'd stay there for hours playing with his Lionel train.

Q: I'd like to change a little bit to, I guess, well, it was a year ago now, that you did your travel.

JSB: Right.

Q: On horseback. How did that come about? Was it something that you had, were planning for a long time or is it something you felt you had to do, or it just came out of --

JSB: No, it was planned for over 10 years, 15 years. The idea

was planted at seven or eight years old by my grandfather, Sam Burton. And to remember, it was just a time capsule for him, 15 years, or 12 years, it was a time capsule. Because I really started to think about when I was about 18 in the military, that he asked me to ride the Trail of Tears in reverse to bring the great-great-grandfather's spirit back to North Carolina. Not knowing anything about the Trail of Tears, I started reading about it and I had an older sister at the time, Jeanne, and she and I would read about it, and try to find out as much about it as possible. And the more we read about it, the more we started to understand Samuel's views and hatreds for a lot of things. And that went on for years just thinking about what I had to do because I promised him I would do it. And Jeanne died in '83 in Los Angeles. And she was really digging into our heritage, lineage, everything when she died. And I promised her I would carry it on. So, that's when the trip, the intensity of the trip became just unbearable sometimes. I mean, I knew I had to do it. But in the meantime, my mother was sick. And she lived a year or so afterwards. And then I started to work for Family Focus, which afforded me the opportunity to attain what I needed to attain, the horses, the equipment, a good job. And it

gave me a chance to plan the trip. And as I would talk to people and talk about things, they would look at me a little, OK. And '96, I really made up my mind I was getting the Man of the Year work award from [Equipe?], the first one that they instituted that year in '96. And I said to myself, well, this is a good time to tell everybody that I know that I'm going to do this in a few years. And I went and talked to, at the dinner that night, brought [Morrelle?] to the dinner, one of my Aunt [Lina?], or one of my aunts, who was very much a Cherokee, who lived and died Cherokee. She was proud that I was going to do this finally. Because she and I had been talking for seven to eight years. And I made the announcement or they read the announcement where I was going to do in reverse, ride the Trail of Tears in reverse in a few years. Well, a lot of people took it lightly. A lot of people took it half-heartedly. A lot of people looked at me, you know, like I was a little strange. So, in '98, I really went in to talk to Ms. Holmes, and I said, "Hey, at my age, I have to leave now, you know, to be able to accomplish what I want to accomplish, and to make my promise to my grandfather come true." So, with reluctance, she said, "Fine." And she said, "Why don't you just take a leave of absence instead

of quitting." I said, "Well, if I sever the tie,  
[00:20:00] and I don't come back, then we'll always be the  
way we are." You know what I'm saying? So, I just, I  
quit. And just, you know, just retired from it in July. I  
think May 30th was my last day. But they needed some help,  
so I stayed another month. And we finally left in July of  
'99. But in the meantime, I had gotten two horses, a  
stallion and a mare. And trained them very greenly.  
Nothing spectacular, no dominant training. I wanted them  
to be wild because if I was going to do the ride, and they  
made the ride, then I was going to turn them free.  
Wherever I went, they were free. And I didn't want them to  
be broke where they'd have to depend on man to take care of  
them. And attained a wolf. And I named him, Wolf. And he  
was part, supposed to be part of the trip. But after  
thinking about it, Wolf was wild. And a lot of people  
would misunderstand Wolf being out there on the highway,  
big and awesome-looking, and I was afraid he'd get hurt.  
Somebody would shoot at him or something. So, we left Wolf  
behind. And we left July 19th, and had a lot of problems  
because I was a novice in packing. We got as far as  
Pecatonica, Illinois. And the mare, who was over-burdened  
by my city expectations of myself, well-dressed, Western

person, I had a lot of boots, coats, Levis, lots of shirts, and she was about 300 or 400 pounds overweight. So, I met this cowboy up in Pecatonica and he saw her fall. At about the third or fourth time she fell, and he helped me get the saddles off. And said, "Man, you have a lot of weight on here." So, we took a lot of weight off. And for two days, he taught me how to pack a horse. And we finally started out and headed out to Wisconsin. Problems in Wisconsin, again, because I'm a novice, at packing and pulling another horse. She got hurt. I had to bring her back to Pecatonica from Wisconsin, Prairie du Chien, and back to Illinois, leave her at Jim's place. And I took off down 20, going through Iowa, through southern Illinois, Galindo, and on through Iowa, and up through northern Iowa, into South Dakota, meeting rural white America. There were apprehension sometimes in the beginning. But after a month out there, they were no longer rural white Americans, they were human beings, and I was a human being. And there was a dramatic change from where I grew up, to the environment I was in now. People treated me very well. They came out to greet me. Newspapers were out to greet me. TV cameras were out to greet me. All the way through Iowa and South Dakota. I approached Nebraska, came into Nebraska, the

same way. Just great people, met great friends. And myself, there has never been any racial hatred in me because I've lived in New York where there's a melting pot of people. Los Angeles is a melting pot of people. Different cultures, different colors. And I've always been able to communicate. So, I didn't have any problems of communicating with people in rural America. The most asked question or the most thing said to me, well, you are not what the newspapers and TV accounts of black people are or mixed people are big cities. And I heard that at first. They think we are robbers, killers, drug dealers, drug users. And we are depicted as the bottom of the barrel in newspaper accounts of our existence in larger cities. And they found that I could talk. I could speak on different subjects. [00:25:00] I knew quite a bit about certain things. Nothing about farming because I was a novice, but I was willing to learn. So, through Nebraska and Kansas, great friends. I learned a lot about cattle. I rounded up cattle, I rounded up bulls. Went to rodeos, rode a bull. They showed me what being American is. And I think all of us need to find out what it truly is to be an American. A lot of people don't know. I mean, white or black. And I think a lot of things are taken for granted about being

American because you have certain rights, or but to be able to see lakes, rivers, trees, animals, undisturbed. People undisturbed by generations, who are living well below the poverty line in the cities, but doing extremely well, eating good, kids go to school. They are programmed to go to a college within their state. If you're in Nebraska, they go to University of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas. At birth, they are set up to do this. Whether their parents make \$10,000 or \$5,000, they are going to a university. The high school drop-out rate is like one-tenth of one percent. They could not remember the last time somebody dropped out of Bassett High School. A guy said, "I think it was 10 years ago, and it was the talk of the town," when his kid dropped out. You have teen pregnancies, but they still go to school. School is paramount, to a lot of the rural white kids. And I didn't see a black kid until I got to Hays, Kansas, which was like 1,600 miles from my initial start. A seventh-grader, name was Ernie, her mother played basketball for Hays State, oh, 14-15 years ago. Ernie is 12 years old and is 6'1". And a phenomenal basketball player already. And her friend, Ashley, who was white, who's the seventh-grader, three-point and free-throw champion of Kansas, for seventh-graders. They both hold a

4.0 grade point average. And the whole study atmosphere is different from here. The kids apply themselves, especially Ernie, because there's not that many blacks in Hays, Kansas. So, there's really no activities unless she involves herself with white kids. And they do their homework, they study together. I noticed a lot of kids in Kansas were studying together. They go home with each other and they study lessons together. And I don't know if that's good or what, but they seem like they're, get their lessons pretty well. I left Kansas and got a website in Kansas. Ernie and Ashley ran my website. They designed it, set it up, emails and everything. And moved on into Oklahoma. Locust Grove, Oklahoma, which I can tell you, people were out waiting for me. And just, I mean, just your accolades and patting the horses, the whole bit. Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, Western Cherokee Nation. Everybody was out to meet me. The highway was loaded with people. We had kind of programmed them five days earlier that there was a warrior approaching Tahlequah from the north. We were emailing them. So, every day, he's four days away, three days away, two days away. And so, word had got out. So, when I approached Tahlequah from Highway 82, coming from the north, there were people

starting to line up on the highway waiting for me to come in. And I was coming in a little late because some lady said, "Oh, they thought you was going be here this morning." And a lot of people didn't talk, they just touched me or the horses as we went by. And I come to find out later, that was a spiritual touching. Not only was I returning my great-great-grandfather's spirit back to North Carolina, but I was returning a lot of their ancestors' spirits back to North Carolina. And I thought that was, that was very touching for me. And I met the chief, the assistant chief, which is, you know, most reservations are political. They're voted in now. And they were very nice. I spent the night there on the reservation at the headquarters. I went to the Heritage Museum the next day, and they took me around and showed me everything, and tried to check, trace my lineage for me, which then was no available. [00:30:00] They gave me all the help that I needed. And from there, I headed on out to, through Arkansas. Met great people in Arkansas. The fire department got me out of the way of a tornado. One morning about 3:00 in the morning, they came looking for me and got me out of the way and inside. On into Missouri, the same way. People all down 62 in Missouri waiting for me on the

highway. Great friends, all the way through. Illinois. The director of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Southern District, [Don Morton?], he met me in Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and had an itinerary for me through all through Illinois. I stopped and talked at a lot of schools. In most states I did. Illinois, I talked to quite a few more. It was during Black History month in February, I was in Illinois. So, I hadn't seen any black kids. So, I asked him to take me to a black school, so they took me up to Carbondale, which was about 45 miles away from my route, and I spoke to a lot of black schools up in Carbondale for that one day and came back and headed on out through Illinois. I crossed the Ohio River, a ferry, into Kentucky. A big welcome committee in Kentucky with the Farm Bureau Insurance agents, just hundreds of them waiting for me. On down to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to a Trail of Tears park. A lot of people, newspaper people, waiting for me. The key to the city. I stayed there a couple days talking to schools. Some religious schools where they gave me things that I can answer and things I couldn't answer. I couldn't talk about God or my feelings about God. And they gave me guidelines. And I went to the school and the first question one of the kids asked me, do

you believe in God? So, I had to look around at one of the nuns or a teacher to see if I could answer that, you know. So, I answered it. I said there is a god. I, the terminology of most Indians are creators. It's a creator. And I explained that to them. So, they, the nuns said it was fine, that I could say that. And that's, probably the first 10 questions were all religious questions. I went to Hopkins Junior College and talked at, to four levels of college kids, freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. And then back to the park for a ceremony. And I stayed there for a couple days giving people how they can get in touch with their lineage at the park and meeting a lot of people at the park. And then we headed out for Tennessee. And I met some more black people in Springfield, Tennessee. I stayed there at a trucking company in the back. A lot of black people came to see me. It was, it would create a major traffic jam some days that I was riding down the side of the highway, because I rode right down the side of the highway. And slept right on next to the road majority of the time with the horses, you know, just tethered up. So, it would create a major traffic jam. But people were still nice. Bring coffee, mornings. There's just so many people. If I could name all the people that went 100 miles

just keeping track, keep track of me, bring coffee or bring rolls, or send coffee and rolls. Gladys from Kansas, from Phillipsburg, Kansas, was sending rolls and coffee by truck 100-and-some miles. That they knew, if she knew a truck was going out on this route I was on, or sandwiches or something. It was just unreal, what Gladys would do. I was sick one time with a cold and this truck driver pulls up one morning with a bag full of cold medicine. And so, this was the kind of friends that I had made. And then on through Nashville, and I had met some country western singers up there in South Dakota. And they wanted to breed my stallion, they liked my stallion, so I did some breeding in Nashville. And I spent a lot of time with this gospel country western singer, Joe Hemphill and his family. They had a ranch out and I camped out on their ranch. And left and headed down, heading towards North Carolina. And met another family that, I mean, they just kind of took to me. And picked my horses up and they took us about 40 miles to their place where we could rest. And I stayed there a couple days till I rested. And I'm still in contact with them. I talk to them about once a week. And headed on north and, I mean, actually, southeast, to North Carolina, which, I mean, just met people every day. I mean, the

average of 20 to 100 people every day. Got to North Carolina, and I'd heard about [00:35:00] this black cowboy, Mac Pickens. And I was trying to get in contact, kept sending messages to him. And he'd send a message back, try and get in contact with him in Murphy. I got to Murphy, met another guy who had a tremendous stable and invited me to stay outside the stable or in the stable, wherever I wanted to stay. He'd take care of the horses, let them rest. And [Mac Pickens?] came in. I met him, a black cowboy, to the bone. Been a cowboy all his life. Don't know nothing else but the cowboy. And we talked. I spent a day with Mac, and he said, "You know what? Do you mind if my son come and ride? He wants to come and ride with you." I said, no, I would have no problem because I finally persuaded Mac to ride 100 miles with me. So, he said, "Yeah," he said, "my son wants to go." I said, "OK." So, I went over to his house and I got, later in the day over at his house. At night, when I come into his living room, there's a whole wall of trophies, high school trophies. I look at them. And I see the name, and it's all to this kid, 100-yard dash champion, 220-yard dash champion, high jump champion, McDonald's All-American, All-State football player, the Little All-American high school

football player. I'm looking at all this stuff. A whole wall as long as this wall here. So, we go down to another room and I'm looking again, trophies, plaques, defensive back of the year, NAA, NCAA. Most valuable player in the Cotton Bowl. Most valuable player in another bowl. This kind of champion, University of Tennessee. I'm looking at all this. And then we go to another room, and there's another big trophies, and jerseys. And then I find his son is Carl Pickens, the wide receiver for Cincinnati. So, he's got all of this memorabilia of Carl, and this is the one that wants to come and ride. So, Carl comes down, I meet him, and he rides. And we hang out, he sleeps out. And he's nothing but a cowboy like his dad. That's all he likes to do, ride horses and chase cows. And he's not, he's materialistic because he's a kid, who, then playing professional football, these things he has is affordable. But he's conscientious of what he has, and he's responsible for the things he has. He's not a publicity seeker, he's low-key. And I'll tell you what kind of kid he is, in his hometown, everybody knows him, but they don't approach him. We went to a chicken place to get some hot wings, and a lady, we had went in there before. And then the lady, she said, "Carl," and he said, "Hey," you remember the name, we

talked a little bit, when he was in high school. She said, "Well, I wanted to ask you on a date. Would you sign an autograph or a picture or something and bring it up to the store, so we can put it in the store?" He said, "But I was in here the other day, why didn't you ask me then?" She said, "Well," she said, "I know people worry you to death about autographs and pictures," and she said, "I just didn't want to get into that." And she said, "I'm really embarrassed to ask you." You know, he drove back to Atlanta where he lives that night, and came back a couple days later with an autographed picture for that lady and some for some other people. But that's the kind of person he is. He's -- and he won't call me, Mr. B, he calls me Mr. Burton. Mannerism, and that's that Southern manners that he has. He's very evasive to people. He, myself and his dad was out, and all these young ladies ran over and said, somebody told them that we were in the casino in Cherokee, that Carl Pickens was there. And they ran over to him and myself, his dad had went over to the other side. And they said, "Are you Carl Pickens?" He said, "No." He said, "That's Carl Pickens over there," and pointed to his dad. And all these ladies ran over there to his dad. And his dad turned around, "Are you Carl Pickens?" He said,

"Yeah, I'm Carl Pickens." He said, "But I'm the older Carl Pickens." He said, "You were just talking to the younger Carl Pickens." By that time, he's disappeared, you understand? But that's the kind of kid he is. And we have a good relationship right now. He -- I talk to him, every couple of weeks, I'll talk to him. But he's a good person and we are planning another ride in March from Murphy to, back up to Kansas, because he made a lot of friends with the kids, had a lot of kids come down from Kansas when I was in Cherokee, who had met me on the ride. So, he wants to ride up there and see them. They made an impression on him and he made an impression on them. So, I finished the trip in April of -- April 15th, 2000, 3,600 miles on horseback.

Q: [00:40:00] What was the main thing you remember?

JSB: Well, I wish I could elaborate on the 10,000 stories and situations that occurred during that period, and I'm writing a book and it will be in there, some of the stories. That some of the things are unbelievable, the rapport with the hawks and the eagles, how they would come to me. And this kind of amazed people, and amazed me at the beginning. They would come so close and just more or less stand over me, guard me, give me directions when I was

unsure about which road to take. I started following their lead and they would always come with the right direction for me to get back to where I needed to go. And it's just something that you have to believe in, the spirits, because the hawk was my totem and they more or less protected me. And that is something that is rare, that you don't see, and amazed a lot of people who are non-believers that it happened. But to sit there and watch them approach me, people were amazed. And fly very low and stay right there near me, as I got on the horse to ride away. That's the only time I would leave is when I left. And they would fly close by me until I was away from a lot of people. The man in Tennessee, who brought his daughter, like 300 or 400 miles for me to touch. Because she'd been married for 10 years and couldn't conceive a child. And when he first approached me and he said, "I want you to touch my daughter because she's trying to conceive a child, and maybe your touch, she and her husband will be able to conceive." So, there were a lot of situations like people would come out to me and ask me for these spiritual things. To bless families, to pull families together. To come and touch all the family members and bind them together, things that I wasn't aware that I was projecting to people. I was just

riding, doing what I promised that I was to do, but not aware that people were depending on me to heal them and bring them out of guilt, of being part-Cherokee and part-white, or part-Cherokee and part-black. Being an adopted person or being a Cherokee period, and left to a white family to be raised by white families, and never in their lifetime honoring that they were part-Cherokee. One lady in Princeton, Kentucky, she had been trying to reach me for a couple of days. And finally, I told her I'd be in town that day, a lot of people, and she came up to me and she told me who she was, OK. She said, "I have something I need to confess to you. And only you." And her husband and her daughters were there. She said, "I am Cherokee." She said, "My great-great-grandmother was Cherokee." They, her parents were dying on the Trail of Tears and, "They gave my great-grandmother to this white family to raise." And she was proud of the family. And she had pictures of where they were all blonde-head kids and this one dark head kid about five years old. And she was raised as one of the sisters. Married, had kids, and married and kids, and so forth. But she said, "I have Cherokee blood in me." And she just broke down and started crying. Her husband, he was just, he just stood there like he was a die-hard

racist, and he had just found out, I mean, he just turned real red in the face. The daughters started crying. But she admitted this in front of all of these people. And this was, it was like in some places like I was a priest or something and people were coming to me to confess. And it got to the point, and I said to myself some nights, I'd be alone laying on the ground. I said, you know, I can't start to believe I'm capable of doing this because I'll lose the reality of what I'm doing. If I start believing that I'm some kind of spiritual medicine man coming through here and can heal all of this. To me, I'm just a normal person. But they are looking at me in a different way, that I can heal all these ills. And I don't want to be known as [00:45:00] somebody who said they could do this or trying to do this, and I can't do this because I don't know if I can do it. But they seemed to think that I could do all these things. And I didn't want to lose track and start to believe that I could do these things. So, I had all these, keep the reality of what I was doing in perspective, and not what people thought I was supposed to be doing in that religious mode. So, that's, that was basically the trip.

Q: OK.

JSB: And I still get tons of emails and letters now that I try to answer.

Q: And your website is still up?

JSB: It's still up. It's not active because I haven't put anything on it, but I've still got, you know, a lot of emails.

Q: What is that address?

JSB: [www.dailynews.net/ads/wolfrider](http://www.dailynews.net/ads/wolfrider) But I'm trying to get it all changed back over to Chicago here.

Q: OK.

JSB: And that's why I really haven't had too much input into it.

Q: Right. Let me check --

JSB: Right. You don't need any more recordings, though, do you?

Q: No, I don't listen to any of this. I might it going just in case you might say something or...

JSB: OK. That's my grandfather and great-grandfather. That's the only picture that, I mean there's other pictures of him. But, and that's probably taken in 1889 or 1890.

Q: So, this would be your great-grandfather?

JSB: That'd be my great-grandfather.

Q: And this would be your grandfather?

JSB: This was him right here.

Q: That's your grandfather, OK.

JSB: Right.

Q: And this is in Abbeville?

JSB: No, this was taken in Florida.

Q: Florida, OK.

JSB: He was a person like me. He went back to the reservation. My grandmother got pregnant 10 times. And each time, he was going to wait on the reservation. As soon as she got pregnant, he went back to the reservation. He'd come back a day before she had the baby. I don't care if it was nine months, eight months and two days, he just knew and he would be back.

Q: Wow. Do you have a negative for this?

JSB: No. What we did was just make copies of it. I made copies of it and when I got the pictures, I gave all the family members copies of it. And let me see, you missed out on some of the newspaper articles and -- this here, oh, let's see, I've got it upside down.

Q: (inaudible).

JSB: Maybe that's Wisconsin there.

Q: Sounds like a lot of clippings.

JSB: Yeah, I'm trying to get some of the originals. This guy in Iowa supposed to send me an original of that.

Q: Original, your original photographs?

JSB: Right.

Q: Good, good.

JSB: That's in Iowa.

Q: Great pictures.

JSB: I think that's back in Nebraska.

BABY: Touch?

Q: You can touch it, too.

JSB: That's Nebraska.

Q: So, everywhere you went, they just came out there, huh?

JSB: Oh, yeah. And that's why I said, so many more newspapers.

I've got another 20 boxes I have to open with arrows and arrowheads, and tomahawks. And this guy here, [Al Hickory?], he used to be a captain of Yellowstone and a forest ranger in charge of the Yellowstone National Park. And he lives in Alma, Nebraska.

Q: OK.

JSB: That's why I say, there's so many stories of friends, good friends. I guess, this is Salisbury, Kansas. [00:50:00] And they truly had, she got hurt there, my mare got hurt real bad there, and I stayed there two weeks while she healed up. And I wrote them a letter, I think on the next page, I wrote them a letter, to the town. The whole town, every day would come by where I was to check on the horses,

or send messages. And I think this is the letter I wrote to the town. I mean, they were like brothers and sisters to me. And I'm the only person of color in this whole town. But everybody, everybody checked on the horses. There'd be a stream of people every day checking on the horses.

Q: Wow.

JSB: That's Kansas, I guess, Stockton, Kansas. Oh, and that's Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Q: So, your mare was named Ghost Dancer.

JSB: Right, mare was named Ghost Dancer. And the stallion was named, [Tame Hamah Cherokee?]. That's when I'm coming across Illinois now. And that's by [Anna?], Illinois, a beautiful place. A beautiful Trail of Tears park, also.

Q: OK.

JSB: That's Tim Two Wolves. In fact, I must have named about 400 people. Everybody who come to me, you give them Indian names. (Laughs) And that's coming into Kentucky there. She is [Jean Nicole?].

Q: I see.

JSB: And that's one of the classrooms in Carbondale I talked at.

Q: OK.

JSB: And that's Hopkinsville. That's Chief Fly Smith from White

Path, two Cherokee chiefs, that bull right there behind that fence. One was a warrior chief and one was a -- just a regular chief.

Q: Keys to the city?

JSB: Yeah, I got five keys. I got to find the rest of the paperwork for the other cities, but...

Q: OK.

JSB: And that's the [Elam?] there, Doug Elam. He lives in Watertown, right out of Nashville. And that's one that found, called me on the side of the road, he said, "I don't care what you say, you've got to ride 40 miles to my place." And I went out there and it's, and he had told his wife that he might ride me with me. And she said, "Oh, no, you're not leaving." You know, so's the whole thing. But the wife is like a sister to me now. Her name is [Vicky?]. And that's when I'm coming into North Carolina there.

Q: OK.

JSB: And this is Mac Pickens here. And this, a reverend there. We're at their house in Murphy. And this is a thing I spoke at not too long ago.

Q: OK. Good stuff. So, you're writing a book right now?

JSB: Yeah. In fact, it had 1,800 pages.

Q: OK.

JSB: That they're typing, they're about through with the pages, I had 1,800 tape and papers, pages, both sides, plus 16 tapes, both sides.

Q: So, this is, other people have interviewed you and --

JSB: No, these are -- as I talk, as I go along, I'm writing.

Q: OK.

JSB: This is a book I started off with. Show you Illinois, some people here in Evanston that you probably know, that I had felt was a part of me in the beginning. That's my friend, [Jessie?], that's my mare, we're up in Wisconsin where we used to keep them at.

Q: OK.

JSB: Well, and as you know, Ms. Holmes, and that's Lieutenant Cook.

Q: Uh-hum.

JSB: And my little nieces, [Brittany?], [00:55:00] [P.J.?], and [Niko?], and just some friends that have always been supportive of my little niece, who I love dearly. The Delta, and there may be a Delta man, a sorority there. And that's [Jim Thompson?], the one that initially helped me get started.

Q: OK.

JSB: And these are some of the kids, before I had to leave, they

had a big celebration outside. I brought the horses down for them to see. And this is Jim and his family getting ready to leave at that Pecatonica, me saddling up.

Q: OK.

JSB: And that's we're riding, starting out through Wisconsin.

Q: I'm going to stop the tape here.

END OF AUDIO FILE