INTERVIEW WITH BOB BISHOP
In his home in Morehead, KY
June 3, 1993

I'm not sure I've got anything that you can use or that would be helpful, but my connection with Louise is a long time personal thing. From the first day I went to school, Doc and me went to school together. And in the same class-- and I'm 82 now and my memory of things-- well, I can't know people's names sometimes. People I've known a lifetime. But our teacher was Mrs. Hart. Now, why I remember Mrs. Hart's name-- and I've had hundreds of teachers that I've known through the years and I had her only one year and I was only seven years old. Doc was six and I was seven. Got started a year ahead of me. But I never went to school until I was seven years old. I was fortunate that I was seven years old; I've always said that, I was glad they didn't start me until I was seven because Louise and I were in school together and took the same classes. We took the same classes all through the grades and then, of course, that was the last year of the Morehead Normal School. It was in the building in which the President's office was and the auditorium was. Then for a year or two there wasn't any school there at all. So then, of course, Louise and I went to the public school. We stayed in the public school all through.

I never went to Breck (Breckinridge Training School) and Louise never went to Breck. We never left the public schools. Oh, I'm sure we could have gone to it. Most certainly Doc could have. Doc was from a very prominent family here: well-to-do people. Well, then, it got so Breck was hard to get in. Well, I presume that they started Breck before we got through. But anyway, we never did go to Breck.

We stayed in the public school and graduated together. All those years, we took the same courses-- except that she took sewing one year and I didn't take sewing. That's the only class in all those years-- that we wasn't in the same room. An, oh, ninety percent of the time, I'd say, we sat in adjoining seats. Of course, I went down to her home just like I went to my own home. We studied a lot together you know and I never-- oh, you don't do those things now-- but I never knocked on the door, I just went on in. And we'd go up to study. That is really my connection with Doc.
You see, my father died the year I graduated from high school. In fact Louise and I, we finished in the mid-semester and then we went up to the University some. I took Latin and some of those subjects up there. And then, the night we graduated--at the Christian church--that's where they held the service--my father died that night. I graduated and then he died that night. He was in the hospital in Lexington. He'd had surgery, he had cancer. He'd had several surgeries in Louisville and Lexington, both. They told me right after the ceremonies. But then I entered school--I entered the university. I was only 19 years old. Of course that's pretty old to enter the University now.

We were in the retail drug business. My father started that drug business in 1896 and then in 1930 is when he died. So, I'd planned to go to a college of pharmacy. My father was a pharmacist. He didn't go to school. He studied and practiced under doctors--he didn't graduate from any college. You didn't used to then--well, it was like lawyers--you didn't have to go to law school to practice law. You just studied under somebody and when you could pass the examination, you could get a license.

Anyway, I had one brother and two sisters. I'd worked in the drugstore as a kid. Oh, this has nothing to do with Louise. But it just gives you the background. But, the reason I went in the drugstore, I worked in the drugstore--well, we were all born where the Doran Student place is now (Adron Doran University Center). That whole block belonged to my father.

My grandfather lived on one corner and we lived on the other corner. One whole block there, except for the jail, belonged to my father. We owned that. Then, after my father died in 1930, oh, two or three years later, my mother sold that to the State and then we bought a lot here. (Where he lives today on University Blvd.). This was all open country. Only one big house was out at the corner where Doctor Holbrook lived--none on Second Street. But all around here, that was just open field then.

Then, I'd worked in the drug store as a kid. And I worked with some friends that I'd gone to school with. My mother said, "You can work in the store, in the drug store on Saturday and work all day. Or, you can work in the garden and work half a day." So, I chose to work in the store all day, rather than work in the garden. And I later went into the farm business and my brother, who did that farming--you couldn't get him on a farm--no way. And I ended up on a farm. That's just the background to it. Now, anything you want to ask me about Louise?
Well, we lived over here and she lived on Main Street. Let's see, her home was right across the street from where that building-- a woman's furnishing store-- across from that. My father's drug store was down on First Street, right across from the depot. That property still belongs to me. We built that office building for commercial credit. Now that is Stansbury's Office, CPA. That's where we started and then we moved to Main Street. The banks were there and the hotel was there-- the old People's Hotel. (The first three story building in Morehead) At one time some of her people owned it (the hotel). Some of the Proctors owned it. You know, she was a Proctor. Mrs. Caudill had two brothers, Herbert and Ezra Proctor. Ezra was a lawyer here. Herb was a businessman and he moved away from here years ago.

We all played together, oh, yes! Oh, yes, we did all kinds of stunts, you know. We had plays, you know, among the kids. Maybe all kids do it and we engaged in just everything that two kids do. It just seemed that when we went anywhere as kids, you know, it just seemed like Louise and me generally went together and did that all through school. We went to all school functions together. As a kid, oh, she was one of these people who was in everything. She was active, you know, very active. She was really, oh, she was somebody who was content with Louise. She was always, you know, a kind of a leader. She had that characteristic, of leadership. And people liked to go along with what she did and with what she wanted to do. Things like that.

So then, after she left, you know she was gone for many years. Of course when she came home for vacation and things, we'd be together and things. Now, that was back in the times when she knew everybody in the town and I knew everybody in the town. If you saw a stranger on the street, didn't nobody quit till you found out who they were!! And what they was doin' here! And you knew every family and you knew every kid in the family and you knew their names. You knew what their father did. That's what you'd get. I guess you had that in all small communities. But, you know, Morehead was just a wide place in the road. Why, I've seen trucks, cars, get stuck right in Main Street of Morehead and had to be pulled out. In the mud, yes. We didn't have any streets. And when they finally started putting in limestone--we had the streets that crossed the main street from one side to the other-- were made out of what is known as freestone. That was a big industry in this town for years.

We had three plants where they quarried freestone. And the stones could be 6 or 8 inches thick and that was laid across the streets. They had to be big to really stand up under...
you know, I've seen three industries go through Morehead, through this county in my lifetime. And the freestone industry was quite an industry. Well, then, of course, it was a great lumber industry, years ago. Clearfield Lumber Company came here. That was a group of men, Mr. Wrigley and Mr. Lee. Bill Wrigley. They were from Clearfield, Pennsylvania and that's why they called it Clearfield.

So, these people came from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, and after they came here to locate a plant-- there was a big band mill plant. Then, after they came here, they built the Northfork and Clearfield Railroad. And Snyder, a man from Pennsylvania, he was the engineer that built the Morehead, Northfork Railroad. Well, they cut out the timber and then-- Mr. Lee had died by that time-- and then they started the Lee Clay Products Company. That is a clay tile plant. That was operated by the same people and they owned thousands and thousands of acres of land-- timber land.

And then that's how the fire clay industry came into this part of the country. There were two or three big ones-- Soldiers is the biggest. That was the fire clay that was used in locomotives and in the linings of steel furnaces at that time. And so we went through that. So we went through those three different industries. Just in my lifetime. Now we're back in the lumber business. And now, I'm in the cattle business.

My father was born in Gallipolis, Ohio. He had a furniture factory and they had a farm burn out and they moved then to Catlettsburg, Kentucky. Then the river flooded (Ohio) and he lost again and went broke again. Then he finally came to Rowan County and made furniture and sold that and made things like caskets. Then you didn't have embalming, you had just funerals, undertakers, you called them. He had two big horses and a carriage and a hearse they drew. He had two big horses and he was all dressed up and drove those horses. Oh, I know Morehead from way back!!

As little kids, oh, yeah, you know-- of course that was back in the days when you hunted hickory nuts and walnuts and chestnuts. We played in the woods a lot and we'd swim. We'd go swimming in the creek you know, we didn't have any swimming pools. We'd just-- oh, we had a place right across the street from where the University Athletic Center is and we'd swim in that pond a lot. And then there was the Rodburn swimming hole. Oh, we bicycled or walked a lot. Course we walked to this one down there.
The famous pony story? Oh, yes, that was... oh, it was Eldon's brother, Drew. Anyway, they lived, the Evans', where the National Bank is now. That was Bill Young's home. The Youngs were very prominent lawyers. Bill had been circuit judge and Allie had been a circuit judge. Of course, Louise's father was a circuit judge and he defeated Henry R. Pruitt. So, after Bill Young died, he was killed in a railroad accident, after that Mr. Drew Evans, Senior, bought that house. He was a big timber man and he bought that house. We played a lot down there in that house. That was a big house-- that was a great big house! They had a dumb waiter from the basement up to the first floor. They cooked down in the basement-- and they had a dumb waiter, you know, that they raised up. And we'd ride that dumb waiter up and down.

And Eldon's brother-- oh, we were about the same age-- and he was the one that took that pony up into that house, up the stairs and up into that attic and it had a dormer window and he opened the dormer windows and stuck the pony's head out the dormer windows. Louise could have been in on it. That was the group we ran around with; played with.

Louise was very athletic-- played ball and all. Oh, yes, she was good. She was an excellent tennis player. You know that she taught physical education here and she played golf and she was real active. I never was much of an athlete. I never played high school basketball or football. The only sport I ever played, I played golf quite a bit. They didn't have a golf course here, we played golf over to Mt. Sterling. Then they closed that and we went to Winchester and played golf for a year or two and then for the last years of my golfing career, we played in Maysville. Doc was a good athlete.

Now, I call her "Doc", but as kids I always called her Louise or Weezer. And she was my best friend. Oh, yes, we were close friends. I've said many times-- I have made the remark-- Louise, you know, has got a brilliant mind. She is a brilliant person and I used to say that she was smart enough to get me and her both through school. It was kind of an unusual thing, you know, in that fact that both-- she never married and I never married and we went to a lot of social gatherings together, you know. And everybody thought, you know, when we'd go places that we'd generally go together. Our association was a very deep friendship. I've probably never had a friend I was as close to as Louise. Now, I'm going to have an operation a week from now, a hernia operation and, you know, from the time she started practicing medicine... now, I wouldn't say now anything that I thought she'd object to me saying-- that would be just unbelievable.
You know, when Louise came back here, I said to her, I remember very well... see, she decided that she was going to come back here and practice medicine. I remember we talked about it. I said to her, well, I've never been anyplace else, you know. I've lived right here in these two blocks for the 82 years of my life and that's home.

And I said to Louise, "Why in the world are you coming back here to Morehead to practice medicine?" She'd been to school you know. She'd been in school in New York and she'd been to school in Ohio State and she'd been in school at the Louisville College of Medicine and maybe even some other schools. And I said, "Laws me, of all those places, looks like to me you could pick some other place besides here to start practicing medicine." And she told me this, she said... "Well, I've enjoyed the places I've been in the East, New York..." You know, she's traveled quite extensively and now she's traveled world wide.

So I said, "Why in the world are you coming back to Morehead?"

And she said, "Well, I'll tell you..."

And I said, "Laws, there's a lot of disadvantages here..."

And she said, "Yeah, I know that, there'd be some of that in practicing medicine here. But, in all the traveling I've done and in all the places I've lived, I could always find things that I didn't like. But, I just decided that if no place was perfect as far as I was concerned, I might as well come back home and practice where I know the people. And that's why I came back home. There's a lot of problems here, there's a lot of problems everywhere! I'll never find a place there aren't problems so I'm coming back to Morehead."

And she did come back from the day she started practicing. Of course, well, back then, you know, there was a feeling about women practicing medicine-- that is, about men going to them. But Louise and me had been so close that I just said, "Well, that's who I'm going to see."

Now, it was a funny thing. I'll give you this example of the feeling. I had a friend, a business man, and he was a patient of Doc Louise's. He brought a prescription in the store from another doctor. And I said, "I thought you went to Louise." I was close enough to him and we were more frank, maybe, in those days I guess. He had hemorrhoids and he had a prescription for ointment. Well, that meant he had to be examined for hemorrhoids, you know, and he said, do you think I could go to Doc Caudill? And I said, "Well, I'm sure that's the way you feel, but I've
told Louise that she’s my doctor from one end to the other.” I mean, it’s a professional thing. And I just feel close enough to her.

So I never saw another doctor after Louise came here or a doctor that she didn’t send me to. Now, I’ve seen neurosurgeons and I’ve seen other surgeons and I’ve seen a great many different doctors. I never went to one outside of general practice unless she’d say, “You ought to see a neurosurgeon” or “You ought to see this or that one.” I have a hiatal hernia problem and she said, you ought to see some man--I forget what the field is called. So, I remember the first neurosurgeon I went to. I said to her, “Now, Doc, you be sure to tell him that all you want him to do and I want him to do is to examine me and decide what should be done. But I don’t want any operation on anything. He is to report to you and then you decide what to do.” And I remember this very prominent neurosurgeon in Lexington--long since passed away--but, he said to me, “Well, I see that Doc Caudill and you have decided that you want my opinion and then you’ll decide what I’m to do!” And I’ve done that all the time. I’ve never been to a surgeon or any other doctor but what she has sent me to.

Oh, yes, she has a very special feel for diagnosis. There’s no question about it. I can’t help but believing that we are getting off the subject matter. I’ll tell you this about Louise and me. I was in the drug store one night and I had this hernia. It became terrifically painful. I called my sister and told her to call Louise and tell her to come down, I’m in bad shape. So, her and Susie came down. Finally Doc said, “Bob, we’re going to have to take you to Lexington and you’re going to have to be operated on and you’re going to have to be operated on tonight.” That was before we had the ambulance, the funeral parlor people was the way--they had the ambulance. So, her and Susie went with me to Lexington. And she had called Dr. Francis Massey--a prominent surgeon in this part of the country then. We didn’t have as many surgeons as you have now. They went with me. One time I even said, “You’ve just got to stop until I ease this pain.” So, we went there and I was operated on that night. It was a strangulated hernia and they had decided that maybe there was some gangereneous tissues.

Massey always said that Louise decided how much--he told me how much of my intestines I lost--he said that Doc Caudill, she was the one decided how many inches to do. I think that that was just a story anyway. But, you just don’t have people do like that for you anymore. In fact, her family got all worried. She didn’t come home that night and she didn’t tell
them where she was going and they didn't know where she was until she came back from Lexington. Course they left me down there.

Louise Caudill made a big difference in this town-- in Morehead. Oh, yes. Certainly, as far as the medical function is concerned. There is no question. There'd have never been a hospital here. Oh, might have some time, but there would never have been a hospital established when St. Claire was established if it hadn't been for Louise. They can talk about all the people on the committee-- I wasn't on it-- but my brother-in-law, he was the County Agent and was trying to raise some money for it.

Oh, I contributed to it, oh yes, and my mother did too. But there just wouldn't have been a hospital here, I don't care what anyone says. Oh, all of them was for a hospital. Oh, I guess Arvis (Porter) started practicing before they had a hospital, but, I guess that was the only doc. Back in those days, see, when I grew up there were two prominent families-- they were all GP's then, we didn't have specialists here in Morehead. Dr. Grover and Dr. H.L. Nickels-- they were brothers-- and they were the prominent doctors here. But they had passed away before the hospital. Dr. Atkins left there before they started the thing and Dr. Jerett was living and was active. Everett Blair, Don's father was here. Dr. Grover Nickels and my father were real close friends. He was my father's physician and Dr. Everett came and he was more near my age-- older-- but I went to Everett. Anybody that says to you that this hospital-- here-- well, and don't know about Dr. Louise, well... She just organized it.

Now there was not a Catholic Church here and so she contacted the Methodists and she contacted the Christian and the Disciples of Christ-- that's where she goes-- and the Baptists. She really tried to get a Protestant denomination in that hospital but they just couldn't.

Oh, yes, there was some opposition. Back years ago, you know, the Catholics were looked at as a different type of people. Now, Emma Sample, is still living, and she stayed with us. She had a room in our home out there when she was teaching. She was one of the original teachers at Morehead Normal School. That was a State School and every Sunday morning she got up and got on the 21 C and O and she went to mass in Mt. Sterling every Sunday. Back there then the Catholics would also meet on Friday. Now to us we didn't see anything particularly wrong with her. I mean with the Catholic faith. But the mountains were kind of anti-Catholic. It was Protestant dominated. It is still. She run into some of that. You see, that's what
Doc has that most people don't have. She could sell you a bill of goods-- I don't care what it was. Why, you just couldn't figure out enough reasons not to do a thing if Doc was for it.

She's a great personality you know. As I know her, and all I know she's done and everything, she is still Louise to me. And we were friends long before she started up in the world. And now, of course, every time she gets an award I generally go when she gets it at the University, you know, and it's just a personal thing with us. The fact that she has all these awards and that sort of thing, it don't make a bit of difference to me in the world. I generally go to those. And, of course, I'm in her office once or twice every week and on Sundays I go out to Louise's. We just sit there and talk and watch the ball games and to me she's just Doc.

I'm sorry that I can't just say something to really tell you what I-- all I know she's done-- it's unbelievable. Still, to me, she's just Louise. We can just sit and talk and it doesn't matter what degrees she gets or what honors she gets. That wouldn't make any-- well, that doesn't put me where I can't talk to her. I can say anything to Louise that I'd say to anybody. I can call her anytime.

And she came to the house when my mother was sick. Oh, yes, she took care of all our family. She took care of Ed and of Marguerite, my other sister. She took care of Roy. She took care of me. Right today, if I was sick there in that room, I am sure as we're sitting here that Doc would be here to see me. You just don't have friends like that. You just don't have them, that's all. My mother, she just thought the world -- you know, today, Doc Louise don't want to do any more practicing and I think she really wants to retire but she-- well, I think the reason she doesn't retire is that there are just so many people that just... Like, I was talking to my sister Roberta and we said, "Well, what in the world would we do if Doc quit?" What are we going to do?" And I've thought about it a lot. I've thought, well, there's a lot of things liable to happen to me and there seems to be a lot of things happening to me-- I don't know where I'd go!

I've had no telling how many people say to me in the last few years-- they'd say, "Laws, if Doc quits, what are we going to do? Where are we... what are we gonna do?" I think that Louise would quit today but she just has all these people that look to her and depend on her so much. She actually feels like she can't quit. She can't leave them. Laws, I think of doctors I've known that started practicing when Louise did and they have long since retired. I just really don't know.
Doc, you know, she's like any of us who've gotten to the age we got to. You don't do the things you used to do. She doesn't play tennis like she used to. She used to play tennis maybe two or three times a week. Basically, I think Doc's in good health for a person her and my age. I wish I was as in good a physical shape as she is. She can't do what she wants to and she says she can't and, yet, she won't retire. She won't retire as long as she thinks she has an obligation. . . She just loves people.

Yes. Oh, I think Doc has a personal interest. You know, today, the doctors I've seen--like the neurosurgeon sure did a good job on me. I think it just amazed me. Now, I've known many doctors, and to them, I was just a name. I was just Robert Bishop, a certain patient.

No, I don't think there'll be another like her. To describe her, I would say--and I would say to anybody--just for example, say, when I was in the drug business, people were always asking you about doctors. And if anybody had asked me about Doc Louise, I'd say, "Well, I'll tell you what. I think she is one of the most brilliant people I know. And I think her knowledge of medicine is tops. I don't think she ever quit studying and I don't think she ever quit keeping up with modern trends. If I had to recommend anybody, I'd sure recommend that you see Dr. Louise."

Today, I'd say, "I don't even know if she'll accept you as a patient, but if you can get her, you'll win a prize that you'll always remember." Brilliant mind--brilliant. Heart of gold. Genuine. She's interested in the individual. The work she did for the hospital, there wasn't any--well, she got a lot of awards and every one she got she deserved and if there's any more coming her way she ought to have them. But that didn't enter her mind that most people in town would think without her there'd never been a hospital. That never entered her mind!! That doesn't bother Louise. She's not looking for anything. I know that you could say, well, Doc's a wealthy person, and she is. Now, I don't know anything about her finances but I know that she doesn't need the money. She sure wasn't practicing to accumulate any money, I'll tell you that.

Louise and my friendship is just a different relationship. It wasn't just a relationship between a drug store and a doctor, between a doctor and a patient, and I'm not sure I've contributed anything today even--about her. You know, I admire her ability. I admire what she's done and I think she's a great citizen and she's done many things. But, to me, Doc Louise Caudill is a personal friend of mine and I don't know how to tell about that.
With all the admiration, she's still just Louise to me. All her ability, things she's done, marvelous things. But, to me she's still Louise Caudill. And when I see her tomorrow we'll talk about the things we've talked about for years and years and years.

Her fame and fortune I admire, but it doesn't change my opinion. She's just my friend, Louise.
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I. You didn't go to Breck?

BB. Never went to Breck and Louise never went to Breck. We never left the public schools. Oh, I'm sure we could have gone to it. Most certainly Doc could have. Doc was from a very prominent family here, well to do people. Well, then, it got so Breck was hard to get in. Well, I presume that they started Breck before we got through. But anyway, we never did go to Breck. We stayed in the public school and graduated together. All those years, we took the same course— except that she took sewing one year and I didn't take sewing. That's the only class in all those years— that we wasn't in the same room. And, oh, ninety percent of the time, I'd say, we sat in adjoining seats. Of course, I went down to her home just like I went to my own home. We studied a lot together you know and I never— oh, you don't do those things now— but I never knocked on the door, I just went on in. And we'd go up to study. That is really my connection with Doc. I never entered— you see, my father died the year I graduated from high school. In fact Louise and I, we finished in the mid-semester and then we went up to the University some. I took Latin and some of those subjects up there. And then, the night we graduated— at the Christian Church— that's where they held the service— my father died that night.

I. At the graduation?

BB. No. I graduated and then he died that night. He was in the hospital in Lexington. He'd had surgery, he had cancer. He'd had several surgeries in Louisville and Lexington, both. They told me right after the ceremonies. But then I entered school— I entered the University. I was only 19 years old. Of course that's pretty old to enter the University
now. We were in the retail drug business. My father started that drug business in 1896 and then in 1930 is when he died. So, I'd planned to go to a college of pharmacy.

I. Your father was a pharmacist. Where did he go to school?

BB. He studied and practiced under doctors—he didn't graduate from any college. You didn't used to then—well, it was like lawyers—you didn't have to go to law school to practice law. You just studied under somebody and when you could pass the examination, you could get a license. Anyway, I had one brother and two sisters. I'd worked in the drugstore as a kid. Oh, this has nothing to do with Louise. But it just gives you the background. But, the reason I went in the drugstore, I worked in the drugstore—well, we were all born where the Doran Student place is now—(Adron Doran Student Center) That whole block belonged to my father. By grandfather lived on one corner and we lived on the other corner. One whole block there, except for the jail, belonged to my father. We owned that. Then, after my father died in 1930, oh, two or three years later, my mother sold that to the State and then we bought a lot here. (Where he lives today on University Blvd.) This was all open country. Only one big house was out at the corner where Doctor Roy Graves lived—none on Second Street. But all around here, that was just open field then. Then, I'd worked in the drug store as a kid. And I worked with some friends that I'd gone to school with—Ted Crosthwaite—my mother said. You can work in the store, in the drug store on Saturday and work all day. Or, you can work in the garden and work half a day. So, I chose to work in the store all day, rather than work in the garden. And I later went into the farm business and my brother, who did the farming—you couldn't get him on a farm—no way. And I ended up on a farm. That's just the background to it. Now, anything you want to ask me about Louise?...

I. Alright, start when you were young. I know you studied together. You lived over here and she lived on Main Street.

BB. Let's see—her home was right across the street from where that building—a woman's furnishing store—across from that. In where those business blocks. My father's drug store was down on First Street—right across from the depot. That property still belongs to me. We built that office building for commercial credit. Now that is Stansbury's Office, CPA. That's where we started and then we moved to Main Street. The banks were there and the hotel was there—the old People's Hotel. (the first three story building in Morehead) At one time some of her people owned it (the hotel) Some of the Proctors owned it. You know, she was a Proctor. Mrs. Caudill had two brothers, Herbert and Ezra Proctor. Ezra was a lawyer here. Herb was a businessman and he moved away from here years ago.

I. Did you play together before you went to school? I've heard some stories about you kids.

BB. Oh, yes, we did all kinds of stunts you know. We had plays, you know, among the kids. Maybe all kids do it and we engaged in just everything that two kids do. It just seemed that when we went anywhere as kids, you know, it just seemed like Louise and
me generally went together and did that all through school. We went to all school functions together.

1. Do you remember the very first time you met her— as a little kid?

BB. No, my first real recollection is that first day we went to school when she was 6 and I was 7.

1. What kind of little kid was she?

BB. Oh, she was one of these people who was in everything. She was active, you know, very active. She was really—oh, she was somebody who was content with Louise. She always, you know, a kind of a leader. She had that characteristic, of leadership. And people liked to go along with what she did and with what she wanted to do. Things like that.

So then, after she left, you know she was gone for many years. Of course when she came home for vacation and things, we'd be together and things—now, that was back in the times when she knew everybody in the town and I knew everybody in the town. If you saw a stranger on the street, didn't nobody quit till you found out who they were!! And what they was doin' here! And you knew every family and you knew every kid in the family and you knew their names. You knew what their father did. That's what you'd get. I guess you had that in all small communities. But, you know, Morehead was just a wide place in the road. Why, I've seen trucks, cars, get stuck right in Main Street of Morehead and had to be pulled out. In the mud, yes. We didn't have any paved streets. And when they finally started putting in limestone— we had the streets that crossed the main street from one side to the other— were made out of what is known as freestone. That was a big industry in this town for years.

We had three plants where they quarried freestone. And the stones could be 6 or 8 inches thick and that was laid across the streets. They had to be big to really stand up under....You know, I've seen three industries go through Morehead— through this country in my lifetime. And the freestone industry was quite an industry.

I. The other two industries, what were they?

BB. Well, then, of course, it was a great lumber industry, years ago. Clearfield Lumber Company came here. That was a group of men, Mr. Wrigley and Mr. Lee. Bill Wrigley. They were from Clearfield Pennsylvania and that's why they called it Clearfield.

So, these people came from Clearfield Pennsylvania and after they came here to locate a plant— there was a big band mill plant. Then, after they came here, they built the Northfork and Clearfield Railroad. And Snyder, a man from Pennsylvania, he was the engineer that built the Morehead, Northfork Railroad. Well, they cut out the timber and then—Mr. Lee had died by that time— and then they started the Lee Clay Products Company. That is a clay tile plant. That was operated by the same people and they
owned thousands and thousands of acres of land—timber land. And then that's how the fire clay industry came into this part of the country. There were two or three big ones—Soldiers is the biggest. That was the fire clay that was used in locomotives and in the linings of steel furnaces at that time. And so we went through that. So we went through those three different industries. Just in my lifetime. Now we're back in the lumber business.

I. And now you're in the cattle business.

BB. And I'm in the cattle business.

I. Were your parents from Morehead?

BB. No, my father was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, his father. Stephen Bishop had a furniture factory and they had a burn out and they moved then to Cattlettsburg Kentucky. Then the river flooded (Ohio) and he lost again and went broke again. Then he finally came to Rowan County and made furniture and sold that and made things like caskets. Then you didn't have embalming, you had just funerals, undertakers, you called them. He had two big horses and a carriage and a hearse they drew. He was all dressed up and drove those horses. Oh, I know Morehead from way back.

I. As little kids what did you do—go out and look for each other and then go look for something to do?

BB. Oh, yeah, you know—of course that was back in the days when you hunted hickory nuts and walnuts and chestnuts. We played in the woods a lot and we'd swim. We'd go swimming in the creek you know, we didn't have any swimming pools, we'd just—oh, we had a place right across the street from where the University Athletic Center is and we'd swim in that a lot. And then there was the Rodburn swimming hole.

I. How did you get way out to Rodburn?

BB. Oh, we bicycled or walked a lot. Course we walked to this one down here.

I. Were you involved in the famous pony story? I've been told about putting a pony up in the Evans' house—were you part of that gang?

BB. Oh, yes, that was... oh, it was Eldon's brother, Drew Evans Jr. Anyway, they lived where the National Bank is now. That was Bill Young's home. The Youngs were very prominent lawyers. Bill had been circuit judge and Allie had been a circuit judge. Of course, Louise's father was a circuit judge and he defeated Henry R. Prewitt. So, after Bill Young died, he was killed in a railroad accident, after that Mr. Drew Evans bought that. He was a big timber man and he bought that house. We played a lot down there in that house, that was a big house—that was a great big house. They had a dumb waiter from the basement up to the first floor. They cooked down in the basement—and they had a dumb waiter, you know, that they raised up. And we'd ride that dumb waiter up and down.
And Eldon's brother, Drew Evans Jr.—oh, we were about the same age—and he was the one that took that pony up into that house, up the stairs and up into that attic and it had a dormer window and he opened the dormer windows and stuck the pony's head out the dormer windows.

I. And you were one of the kids with him. Whose idea was that?

BB. That was his. Oh, yeah, he was into everything.

I. That wasn’t Louise’s idea?

BB. I don’t know. She could have been in on it. That was the group we ran around with: played with.

I. I understand Louise was very athletic—played ball and all.

BB. Oh, yes, she was good. She was an excellent tennis player. You know that she taught physical education here and she played golf and she was real active. I never was much of an athlete. I never played high school basketball or football. The only sport I ever played. I played golf quite a bit. They didn’t have a golf course here, we played golf over to Mt. Sterling. Then they closed that and we went to Winchester and played golf for a year or two and then for the last years of my golfing career, we played in Maysville. Doc was a good athlete.

I. What did you call her when you were little kids—now you call her Doc.

BB. No, I always called her Louise or Weezer.

I. And she was your best friend...

BB. Oh, yes, we were close friends. I’ve said many times—I have made the remark—Louise, you know, has got a brilliant mind. She is a brilliant person and I used to say that she was smart enough to get me and her both through school. It was kind of an unusual thing, you know, in that fact that both—she never married and I never married and we went to a lot of social gatherings together, you know. And everybody thought you know, when we’d go places that we’d generally go together. Our association was a very deep friendship. I’ve probably never had a friend I was as close to as Louise. Now, I’m going to have an operation a week from now, a hernia operation and, you know, from the time she started practicing medicine...now, I wouldn’t say now anything that I thought she’d object to me saying—that would be just unbelievable.

I. Well, friends don’t do that.

BB. No, I wouldn’t do that because—we talk about things that just wouldn’t be for a discussion with a third party.
You know, when Louise came back here, I said to her, I remember very well... see, she decided that she was going to come back here and practice medicine. I remember we talked about it— I said to her— Well, I've never been to anyplace else, you know. I've lived right here in these two blocks for the 82 years of my life and that's home.

And I said to Louise, "Why in the world are you coming back here to Morehead to practice medicine?" She'd been to school you know, she'd been in school in New York and she'd been to school in Ohio State and she'd been to school at the Louisville College of Medicine and maybe even some other schools. And I said, "Laws me, of all those places, looks like to me you could pick some other place besides here to start practicing medicine." And she told me this, she said...

"Well, I've enjoyed the places I've been in the East, New York..." (She'd traveled quite extensively and now she's traveled world wide)

So I said, "Why in the world are you coming back to Morehead?"

And she said, "Well, I'll tell you...

And I said, "Laws, there's a lot of disadvantages here..."

And she said, "Yeah, I know that, there'd be some of that in practicing medicine here. But, in all the traveling I've done and in all the places I've lived, I could always find things that I didn't like. But, I just decided that if no place was perfect as far as I was concerned, I might as well come back home and practice where I know the people. And that's why I came back home. There's a lot of problems here and a lot of problems everywhere, so I'll never find a place there aren't problems so I'm coming back to Morehead." And she did come back from the day she started practicing, of course... Well, back then, you know, there was a feeling about women practicing medicine— that is, about men going to them. But Louise and me had been so close that I just said, well, that's who I'm going to see.

1. Was that odd at all, going to your childhood playmate and saying, I've got a pain.

BB. No!! It was a funny thing. I'll give you this example of the feeling. I had a friend, a business man, and he was a patient of Doc Louise's. He brought a prescription in the store from another doctor. And I said, "I thought you went to Louise." I was close enough to him and we were more frank, maybe, in those days I guess. He had hemorrhoids and he had a prescription for ointment. Well, that meant he had to be examined for hemorrhoids, you know, and he said, do you think I could go to Doc Caudill? And I said, "Well, I'm sure that's the way you feel, but I've told Louise that she's my doctor from one end to the other." I mean, it's a professional thing. And I just feel close enough to her. So I never saw another doctor after Louise came here or a doctor that she didn't send me to. Now, I've seen neurosurgeons and I've seen other surgeons and I've seen a great many different doctors. I never went to one outside of general practice unless
she'd say, you ought to see a neurosurgeon or you ought to see or see this or that one. I have a hiatal hernia problem and she said, you ought to see some man— I forget what the field is called. So, I remember the first neurosurgeon I went to. I said to her, "Now, Doc. you be sure and tell him that all you want him to do and I want him to do is to examine me and decide what should be done. But, I don't want any operation on anything. He is to report to you and then you decide what to do." And I remember this very prominent neurosurgeon in Lexington— long since passed away— but, he said to me, "Well, I see that Doc Caudill and you have decided that you want my opinion and then you'll decide what I'm to do!!" And I've done that all the time. I've never been to a surgeon or any other doctor but what she has sent me to.

1. People have told me that she has a very special feel for diagnosis.

BB. Oh, yes, there's no question about it. I can't help but believing that we are getting off the subject matter. I'll tell you this about Louise and me. I was in the drug store one night and I had this hernia. It would come out, you know, and I'd lay back on the floor and get it back in. And we were in the drug business and dealt with Ohio Truss Company and I went to them and they designed a belt for me. I'd had it for years and sometimes I'd have trouble with it. One night I was there in the drug store by myself and it came out. I went in the back room and laid down on the floor to try to get it back in. I heard somebody come in so I got up and went out and waited on them but I didn't get it in so— didn't have so many customers that time of night then, so I went back and laid on the mark-up board in the stockroom and laid down. It became terrifically painful. I called my sister and told her to call Louise and tell her to come down, I'm in bad shape. So, her and Susie came down. They worked and worked on it and couldn't get it back in. Finally Doc said, "Bob, we're going to have to take you to Lexington and you're going to have to be operated on and you're going to have to be operated on tonight." That was before we had the ambulance, the funeral parlor people was the way— they had the ambulance. So, her and Susie went with me to Lexington. And she had called Dr. Francis Massey— a prominent surgeon in this part of the country— then. We didn't have as many surgeons as you have now. They went with me. One time I even said, you've just got to stop until I ease this pain. So, we went there and I was operated on that night— it was a strangulated hernia and they had decided that maybe there was some gangrenous tissues.

Massey always said that Louise decided how much— when he told me how much of my intestines I lost— he said that Doc Caudill, she was the one decided how many inches to do. I think that that was just a story anyway. But, you just don't have people do like that for you. In fact, her family got all worried. She didn't come home and she didn't tell them where she was going and they didn't know where she was until she came back from Lexington. Course they left me down there.

1. To go with you— oh, I think doctors wouldn't even come to your house anymore. Do you think Louise Caudill made a big difference in this town— in Morehead?

BB. Oh, yes. Certainly, as far as the medical function is concerned, there is no question. There'd have never been a hospital here. Oh, might have some time, but there would
never have been a hospital established when St. Claire was established if it hadn't been for Louise. They can talk about all the people on the committee— I wasn't on it— but my brother-in-law Adrin Razor, he was County Agent and was trying to raise some money for it...

I. You mean, she didn't try to get money from you?

BB. Oh, I contributed to it, oh yes, and my mother did too. But there just wouldn't have been a hospital here, I don't care what anyone says.

I. But there were other doctors here then. why was she so different?

BB. Oh, all of them was for a hospital. Oh, I guess Arvis (Porter) started practicing before they had a hospital, but, I guess that was the only doc. Back in those days, see, when I grew up there were two prominent families— they were all GP's then, we didn't have specialists here in Morehead. Dr. Grover and Dr. H.L. Nickell— they were brothers— and they were the prominent doctors here. But they had passed away before the hospital. Dr. Atkins left there before they started the thing and Dr. Garred was living and was active. Everett Blair, Don's father was here. Dr. Grover Nickels and my father were real close friends. He was my father's physician and Dr. Everett came and he was more near my age— older— but I went to Everett. Anybody that says to you that this hospital— here— well, and don't know about Dr. Louise, well....

I. What did she do?

BB. She just organized it. Now there was not a Catholic Church here and so she contacted the Methodists and she contacted the Christian and the Disciples of Christ—that's where she goes— and the Baptists. She really tried to get a Protestant denomination in but they just couldn't...

I. Was there some opposition?

BB. Oh, yes, there was some opposition. Back years ago, you know, the Catholics were looked at as a different type of people. Now, Emma Sample, is still living, stayed with us. She had a room in our home out there when she was teaching. She was one of the original teachers at Morehead Normal School. That was a State School and every Sunday morning she got up and got on the 21 C and O and she went to Mt. Sterling every Sunday. Back there then the Catholics would not eat meat on Friday. Now to us we didn't see anything particularly wrong with her. I mean with the Catholic faith. But the mountains were kind of anti-Catholic. It was Protestant dominated. It is still. She run into some of that. You see, that's what Doc has that most people don't have. She could sell you a bill of goods— I don't care what it was. Why, you just couldn't figure out enough reasons not to do a thing if Doc was for it. She's a great personality you know. As I know her and all I know she's done and everything she is still Louise to me. And we were friends long before she started up in the world. And now, of course, every time she gets an award I generally go when she gets it at the University, you know, and it's just a
personal thing with us. The fact that she has all these awards and that sort of thing, it
don't make a bit of difference to me in the world. I generally go to those. And, of course,
im in her office once or twice every week and on Sundays I go out to Louise's. We
just sit there and talk and watch the ball games and to me she's just Doc. I'm sorry that
I can't just say something to really tell you what I — all I know she's done — it's unbelievable.
Still, to me, she's just Louise. We can just sit and talk and it doesn't matter what degrees
she gets or what honors she gets. That wouldn't make any—well, that doesn't put me
where I can't talk to her. I can say anything to Louise that I'd say to anybody. I can call
her anytime. When I was sick— and she came to the house when my mother was sick.

I. She took care of your mother too?

BB. Oh, yes, she took care of all our family. She took care of Ed and of Marguerite, my
other sister. She took care of me. Right today, if I was sick there in that room, I am sure as we're
sitting here that Doc would be here to see me. You just don't have friends like that. You just
don't have them, that's all. My mother, she just thought the world—. You know, today, Doc Louise
don't want to do any more practicing and I think she really wants to retire but she—well, I think
the reason she doesn't retire is that there are just so many people that just... like, I was talking to
my sister Roberta and we said, "Well, what in the world would we do if Doc quit?" What are we
going to do? And I've thought about it a lot. I've thought, well, there's a lot of things liable to
happen to me and there seems to be a lot of things happening to me— I don't know
where I'd go!!

I. There must be dozens and dozens in this town who feel the same.

BB. I've had no telling how many people say to me in the last few years— they'd say.
"Laws, if Doc quits, what are we going to do? Where are we... what are we gonna do?"
I think that Louise would quit today but she just has all these people that look to her and
depend on her so much. She actually feels like she can't quit— she can't leave them.

Laws, I think of the doctors I've known that started practicing when Louise did and they
have long since retired. I just really don't know— I had cataract surgery a few weeks
ago and I had this trouble when I had this subdural hematoma— which collects fluid
between the skull and the brain — and they picked me up... I'd gone down to Salt Lick
to eat. I don't know if you know about Salt Lick, but I go down there to eat at Green's.
So, I was going down to eat that night and, I always tell them, I got lost in Salt Lick!!!
And I ended up way off the road and all at once I realized that and an officer stopped
me and said, "You're driving all over the road." I said I didn't know that. He gave me a
chance to try again and finally said, "Bishop, you just get over and I'll take you to
Morehead and I'll have the Morehead police bring me back to my car." Now, you don't
find officers doing that very much. I mean, driving you in your car up to your house and
then having their city police pick them up. That doesn't exist any place else. Now,
that's the kind of friendship you have in the mountains. Of course, I've never lived any
other place so maybe they do have it in other places. But other people tell me it's not
that way. So, they brought me in and put me in the hospital. She (Louise) said, "We've
got to get a hold of Dr. Tibbs and he has got to operate on you." And so they sent me to
Lexington and he operated on me the next morning.

Then when I had this cataract surgery—I’ll tell you that story was—after that happened I had to take the drivers test. Louise was examining me and she said, “You’ve got cataracts and you have to have something done with it.” I said, “Tell me what to do, make an appointment and I’ll go see them.” I saw Dr. Evans and he said it should be done. So, I said, “You report to Dr. Louise what condition you’ve found and she’ll decide what to do.” She said, “Well, you’ve got to have them removed and that’s all. Dr. Evans is qualified and I think I might have to have that at some time and if I have to I’d have Evans do mine.” “Well,” I said, “if you’ve got confidence and you’d let him operate on your eyes, then that suits me.”

I. She never seems to be ill herself, or else she never talks about it.

BB. No. Doc, you know, she’s like any of us who’ve gotten to the age we got to. You don’t do the things you used to do. She doesn’t play tennis like she used to. She used to play tennis maybe two or three times a week. Basically, I think Doc’s in good health for a person her and my age. I wish I was as in good a physical shape as she is. She can’t do what she wants to and she says she can’t and, yet, she won’t retire. She won’t retire as long as she thinks she has an obligation...

I. Don’t you think she just loves people?

BB. Yes. oh. I do. yes. I think Doc has a personal interest. You know, today, the doctors I’ve seen—like the neurosurgeon sure did a good job on me— I think it just amazed me. Now, I’ve known Dr. Tibbs, he was at Cave Run Clinic, and he’s a great surgeon. But, there wasn’t anything personal between me and Tibbs. I was just a name. And Dr. Evans, I was just Robert Bishop, a certain patient and he operated on me on a certain day. In fact, now, I don’t know any physicians that don’t do that. I don’t think there’ll be another like her.

I. If you had to describe her to somebody who had never been here, how would you do that?

BB. Oh, I would say—and I would say to anybody—just, for example, say, when I was in the drug business, people were always asking you about Doctors. And if anybody had asked me about Doc Louise, I’d say, “Well, I’ll tell you what. I think she is one of the most brilliant people I know. And I think her knowledge of medicine is tops. I don’t think she ever quit studying and I don’t think she ever quit keeping up with modern trends.” If I had to recommend anybody, I’d sure recommend that you see Dr. Louise. Today, I’d say, I don’t even know if she’ll accept you as a patient—but if you can get her, you’ll win a prize that you’ll always remember. Brilliant mind, brilliant. Heart of gold. Genuine. She’s interested in the individual. The work she did for the hospital, there wasn’t any—well, she got a lot of awards and every one she got she deserved and if there’s any more coming her way she ought to have them. But that didn’t enter her mind that most people in town would think without her there’d never been a hospital—that never entered her
mind!! That doesn't bother Louise. She's not looking for anything. I know that you could say, well, Doc's a wealthy person and she is. Now, I don't know anything about her finances but I know that she doesn't need the money. She sure wasn't practicing to accumulate any money, I'll tell you that.

I. Yes. I just got a bill from her and it was $20.00! Didn't seem possible. She said that she thought, with all these awards, that Susie should get recognition too. She works as hard as she did.

BB. I think that's true too. It's just unbelievable. I've never had anybody do for me what Louise has done for me.

I. I hear you mean more than just diagnosing sickness.

BB. Oh, yes. She sent us a lot of patients when we were in the drug business. But, you know, it's just hard—hard to really tell anybody the real connection that Doc and my association's been. It's not a normal pattern at all, you know. It's hard, you know, I started to call you one time and wanted to say, I believe what you're looking for is—well, I just don't think I can be of any help to you. Louise and my friendship is just a different relationship. It wasn't just a relationship between a drug store and a doctor—between a doctor and a patient—and I'm not sure I've contributed anything today even.

You know, I admire her ability. I admire what she's done and I think she's a great citizen and she's done many things. But, to me, Doc Louise Caudill is a personal friend of mine and I don't know how to tell about that.

I. What it really is about her—nobody knows. Maybe she doesn't either.

BB. I think you can see my position. You can't be as close—I don't know of anything I wouldn't say to Doc Louise—nothing—about anything. There's such a closeness between us that I think I could just say anything to her. When you're that close to a person, you just—well, it's hard for you to describe them—or what she is. With all the admiration, she's still just Louise to me. All her ability, things she's done, marvelous things. But, to me she's still Louise Caudill. And when I see her tomorrow we'll talk about the things we've talked about for years and years and years.

Her fame and her fortune, I admire but it doesn't change my opinion. She's just my friend, Louise.