

MSU ARCHIVES

Jane (Mrs. Boone) Caudill is the wife of Louise's brother. Boone Caudill was born August 22, 1915, and died August 11, 1970. Jane was born in Indiana on November 17, 1917. Jane has always been the strong support of the Caudill family and it is through her son Proctor (Proc) Caudill and his three sons (Boone, Aaron, and Ben) that the Caudill name will continue.

Jane Caudill welcomed me into her home and gave me, as I'm sure she does everyone, a sense of being a long time friend. She is the epitome of graciousness. She lives in a brick house on North Wilson that is situated directly across the street from the big white Caudill family home. She has lived in this house ever since she and Boone moved to Morehead from their first home in Sandy Hook in Elliot County, where Boone Caudill ran the family bank - Peoples Bank. Today, Jane's son Proctor runs this bank together with Jane and they make the trip to Sandy Hook every day.

Many of Louise and Susie's memories are closely bound up with Jane Caudill and her house. From Susie's first memories of Morehead and being picked up by Jane at the station, to their daily use of Jane's washing machine when they came back from deliveries in the country. Jane has played, and still does play, a unifying role in the Caudill family. It's her family. These are people who care for each other through holidays, sickness, happiness, celebrations and commitment to their community. Jane Caudill, herself, is committed to the community as well and finds her major contribution in assisting local folk artisits and the folk art museum.

INTERVIEW WITH JANE CAUDILL (Mrs. Boone)**In her home: 321 North Wilson, Morehead KY****June 15, 1993**

I met Louise on New Year's Eve, 1939. That was at Lucille's (Lucille Caudill Little) in Lexington. I'm from Southern Indiana. I met Boone (Boone Proctor Caudill, Jr.) when he was in law school and I was working. I went to school in Louisville and worked; I went to commercial school. I met Boone there and he was going to law school. We married in 1939. Then, I had never heard of Morehead, Kentucky. And I had never heard of Sandy Hook, Kentucky either.

I didn't meet the Caudill family until. . . let's see. . . I met him in October of 1938 and I didn't meet any of the family until that New Year's Eve. That's when I met Louise and Lucille. That was in Lexington, Lucille was married to Paul Little then. We went to a cotillion. Then the next day Granny and Paw Caudill came-- so I met the whole family. And I was very apprehensive about meeting the family. All of them were very gracious to me. Well, we all had to get dressed to go to that dad gone cotillion. We wore formal gowns-- at that time we all did. It was an annual thing. We had a good time. But that was my first time to meet Louise. I felt real comfortable. I don't know how she felt.

Louise and Lucille were so different then. They've always been different. Well, Lucille is older and I think she tried to take care of "Weezer"- I've always called Louise "Weezer"- and in a way, I think Lucille may have felt a little bit responsible (for her). Boone was not like either of his sisters.

And then I met their parents. I call them Granny and Paw. They lived right across the street (from Jane's home on North Wilson, Morehead). See, Boone and I lived in that family home for seven or eight years after we were married in 1939. Granny and Paw were so good to me. My mother died a couple years after Boone and I married and Granny was just my 'Mommy.' And Paw Caudill, bless his heart, he was a business man. But, he liked to play checkers and pool and bridge and read. Granny took care of us-- oh, but he was the provider and so forth, but Granny just kind of held everything together. You would have loved her. A cute little lady. They were awfully nice to me and I tried to return it. . . and so nice to my children. Oh, yes. Susie, Etta Jane, Proc, and Sally. Proc lives here in the outskirts of Morehead. He has three boys. Boone, Aaron, and Ben (married Roberta Hough).

I met Susie Halbleib at Oneida, Kentucky at the little maternity hospital there. And it was on New Year's Eve in 1947. Boone and I were invited to come over to see them for New Year's Eve. And, oh, it was the dickens getting there. Muddy roads and we didn't know the way. We finally got there just before the New Year's Eve was over. They were delivering a baby. Oh, it was fun!! They brought the baby in and had tied a red bow around that little teeny tiny infant. And we all had New Year's Eve and told jokes and there were other nurses there. That's the first time I met Susie.

At first Boone and I were living and working at the People's Bank at Sandy Hook, KY. I still work there, oh, yes, and I love it! Boone and I bought this house in 1947, in Morehead, but we built all of this back part on. We were crowded with four kids running in and out. And Weezer and Granny Caudill, they lived right across the street. And Louise's practice was-- well, when I first came here-- was in physical education up at the University. That was in '39 and she started med school in '43. Then she came back here. She graduated in '46 and went to Oneida. That's where she met Susie and came back here and began practicing in January of '48 -- upstairs. You probably know all about that.

Susie wasn't scared to come at all. Susie's not scared of anything. . . she's laid back. Susie came here alone on the train and I met her on the six o'clock train. Louise, I think was in New York with a Chinese doctor that had been here. I can remember what we had for dinner that night. Roast beef, potatoes, and carrots and slaw. That was before we built this part back here and that's where we ate, in the kitchen. And the four kids were here. But, Susie was just as-- well, seemed so comfortable.

Anyway, she said she came into our living room and thought she saw blood on our fireplace. Oh, yes! It was catsup. We'd been sleighriding the night before, and we'd had hamburgers in the living room and the heat was off-- and I remember that.

We lived here when Paw Caudill died in 1967. Boone died in 1970. . . heart. I was in the hospital with Boone in Lexington and we thought he might be doing a little bit better. I was with him in intensive care and I couldn't call Weezer and the doctor did. That was it. We came home then. And Granny died in 1976.

Well, Granny-- no, she was not a good driver. Oh, you know where this four way stop is down here at Second Street and Wilson? She never stopped, she went right through it. She got several-- oh, not exactly parking. . . it was for double parking. She had to go collect her rent-

- have you heard this one? Well, she went to collect the rent-- they owned several pieces of property-- and she parked in front of the police station one day-- they had property right next to the police station. So she went in to collect her rent and when she came back she had a ticket. So she took it into the police station and said, "I'm not going to pay this. I've just been here a minute or two." So they kind of argued with her and she said, "Just give me another ticket." And they did. Louise and I paid her parking tickets.

The Caudill household was pretty active. They played bridge; weekends we always played bridge. Sometimes we played all night and whoever lost had to wash the dishes. Very competitive people. And there was their sister Patty and brother Bud. He's in Monticello. There's Cille, Weezer, Boone, Buddy and Pat. Buddy was a terrific athlete; very likable and a good ole boy.

But, Weezer and I have been awfully close and particularly since Boone died. Weezer has helped me a lot. There were times when I needed someone and I could always go to Weezer. We've never had-- oh, we don't agree on everything-- and Weezer, well, her influence on people is the fact that she can make people listen to her. To me, that's the thing in her practice that she has done. And Susie, bless her heart, they have gobs of people down there, and Weezer will sit down and talk to someone and make them feel better and there may be 15 people out there wanting the same thing. That's Weezer's big thing-- listening and talking to people. Also, her love for this hospital and the people she serves. It's real.

Well, Louise and I are awfully close. Yes, I feel she is really my sister too and I hope she would say the same thing about me and put it that way. And Susie too-- well, Weezer and I have talked about this-- because Susie is a strong person. She's had a lot of tragedy in her family. Susie was raised by her grandmother. She is one of five, and she is the eldest. She just has sort of helped her family. Weezer couldn't make it without Susie. No way.

Weezer is not a fancy person and she likes tailored slacks and, of course, she can't play tennis anymore, but I bought her tennis shorts. Now, they both love the house and they both like to be comfortable but I don't think they need a 'dad gone' thing as an addition. I tried to buy them a microwave-- why, they didn't want one!! I don't know where they'd put it-- probably in the bathroom. They are not interested in modern appliances. Well, they have everything they need. Louise is very appreciative of what she has and if she wants something, she gets it. And Susie

is the same thing. Now, Susie likes dresses. Oh, and Weezer LOVES jewelry. Oh, she likes jewels. She really does. And she likes to dress up.

Yes, I think a lot of people would be disturbed or scared or insecure if she closed up her practice, and I think she worries about that. I think that's why she is staying on-- up to a point. I think now she has begun to think about herself some. Oh, sure, she is my doctor too. I know of doctors in Lexington who have said that Louise is one of the best diagnosticians that they have known. I mean, she might be diagnosing something but if she were not sure, she would send them on. Usually they concurred with her. And I'm not saying it was always.

And Weezer's thing has been about people and about getting the hospital. She's a people person. She's different, you don't forget her. What is it about her? I don't know the word. Can you think of a word? But there's only one of her. I guess it's her caring. Oh, I can't say the word. She has some sort of a charisma that draws you to her and you feel comfortable. I don't know the word.

Now, on the other hand, Louise is very timid. Boone was timid. Boone and Louise were very much alike. She doesn't like to be in crowds and Boone didn't either. Boone and Weezer were the nearest alike of the five kids. She really is timid, and Boone was and my son, Proc, he is too. And they all do have personality qualities but down deep-- they are timid. They kind of sit back-- don't want to take the spotlight. No, not out of fear. Louise is the one to reach out to someone who might be timid and tries to make them comfortable. She does that, but it depends on the situation. Ok, if there were twelve people in this room right now, Louise would not be the leader. What I mean is, she would not be the one who comes in and says, 'how's everybody and what are we doing tonight?' Boone was that way, and Proc is that way. Now, I'm not. I'll just get things going. And I'm, well, it's personality differences. But, when things get started, they all get into it. You can see that in Weezer. you know she is outgoing and so forth, but she's not one to hold the floor. Susie is a very humble person. And genuine. Proc and I talk about it a lot-- how gracious she is. Susie is just a fine fine person.

And, oh, yes! They delivered Sally right here (in this house) on Thanksgiving day! Oh, we had a ball!! Right here in that bedroom. We planned it. Sally was the youngest of our four. All the others were born in a hospital-- and that was before the hospital here. So, Louise and Susie asked me, and I said, "That's fine with me." Now, they were teetotally scared to death. Both of them. I wasn't, oh, no.

I called them up about three o'clock in the morning. See, my water broke the week before and I was working. Anyway, on Wednesday-- why, I'm telling you the life story of all of us! On Wednesday, Weezer said, "Well, we'll probably have it tonight." So I called them and they came over. They lived in the family home across the street at that time, and they got right in bed with me. Yes, Weezer and Susie both got in bed with me! They were so tired! Now, the children were singing at the church in the choir; Susie and Etta Jane. The two oldest were singing in the church, so I combed their hair and tied their bows and they went off to church and came back and they had a baby sister. Boone was here taking care of Proc. He was a nervous wreck, yes. I thought he'd like to die.

Oh, and Louise and Susie used to go out on deliveries all night long. Then, they'd come back to the people all lined up on the stairs here. But they came first to our house to do the laundry. Well, it was called packs, delivery packs, and we never locked our doors then, and they'd come in-- say one, two, three, or four a.m. and put something in my wash machine. Granny didn't have a wash machine. I'd get them out the next morning and put them in the dryer. Sometimes they'd have three or four. And these were big packs and all that stuff you drape with.

So, Sally was born, I think, about nine in the morning. Now this was three in the morning when I called them and they came over and got in bed with me in the bedroom. Proc was crying-- anyway, I was just as calm as a cucumber. But they were as nervous as a whore in church. They just put their little portable table on the bed. They did all the prenatal care. Yes, they were scared because it was me. Well, put yourself in their place! So, I took a shower about an hour and a half later and we had Thanksgiving dinner! It was a fun time and when the kids came home from church on Thanksgiving morning, they had a little sister and they went running up and down this street yelling they had a little sister. About 2 o'clock I had a can of beer! Yes, Granny and Paw Caudill were here.

You see, Louise and Susie were living over across the street then. And then they built the office in 1957 and had the apartment in the back and had the delivery rooms. When they were living over there people often came there to get them. Oh, yes. One time a lady came with a wasp sting and she was in distress with breathing. I remember coming into the dining room and Weezer-- see, at that time they carried a bag with them all the time, with whatever they needed for emergencies. Then another time some people-- now I can't tell this straight-- but ask

Weezer about it. Some people, from Tennessee. You couldn't tell it but that lady was in labor and Louise delivered her in Granny's bed. Well, Granny just went along with everything.

Well, at that time there was no women's lib. Actually, Paw Caudill was pretty liberal and he was awfully proud of Louise. He was here when she graduated. That was during the war and we lived in Sandy Hook at that time and there really was no formal graduation. And she was on an accelerated program and she went in three years-- there was nothing formal and I know we didn't have tires or gasoline then. But, Paw was proud of all of his kids. His main goal, in his life, was education.

Well, I don't see Weezer as much as I used to because of driving back and forth to Sandy Hook, where I work at People's Bank, but I talk to her every night. I call her at five minutes after seven every night. And we go to the same church.

Louise has, oh, she and I talk about it, things like this a lot of time, about religion and oh, who knows? You leave but what do you leave? And how do you leave? And I'm no scholar on religion, Louise is more than I am. She has her own strength. And, a healer? Well, I don't think that in her own concept of herself she feels that way. She loves to please. I'll tell you another thing about Weezer, and I think this is characteristic of many, you have to keep your self-esteem going. I think she doesn't really realize how much she has helped people. And she doesn't 'make over' herself, you know that, because she's timid. I guess I would say she is humble and she does what she does because that's what she does. She doesn't have to do it.

INTERVIEW WITH JANE CAUDILL (Mrs. Boone)
Morehead, KY
In her home: 321 North Wilson
June 15, 1993

MSU ARCHIVES

I. Everyone has told me that I had to talk to you. I was wondering if you remember the very first time you met her.

JC. I met her at Oneida at the little maternity hospital there.

I. You'd never met her before?

JC. No. And it was New Year's Eve in 1947. Boone and I were invited to come over to them for New Year's Eve. And, oh, it was the dickens getting there. Muddy roads and we didn't know the way. We finally got there just before the New Year's Eve was over. They were delivering a baby. Oh, it was fun!! They brought the baby in and had tied a red bow around that little teeny tiny infant. And we all had New Year's Eve and told jokes and there were other nurses there. That's the first time I met Susie.

I. And you were already married to Boone-- what year did you marry?

JC. 1939. I'd met Louise on New Year's Eve, 1938. That was at Lucille's in Lexington.

I. Where are you from?

JC. Indiana, Southern Indiana. I met Boone when he was in law school and I was working. I went to school in Louisville and worked; I went to commercial school. I met Boone there and he was going to law school.

I. At that time, had you ever heard of Morehead, Kentucky?

JC. No. No ma'am. And I had never heard of Sandy Hook.

I. So, he brought you here to meet his family?

JC. I didn't meet the family until... let's see. I met him in October of 1938 and I didn't meet any of the family until that New Year's Eve. That's when I met Louise and Lucille. That was in Lexington, Lucille was married to Paul then. We went to a cotillion. Then the next day Granny and Paw Caudill came (?)- so I met the whole family.

I. But you must have heard about them. How did Boone describe Louise?

JC. Really his favorite sister. And he was her favorite brother.

I. how did he prepare you to meet them?

JC. Well, Boone and I were courting so much...

i. Oh, didn't talk about them.

JC. And I was very very apprehensive about meeting the family. All of them were very gracious to me.

i. Were you shy?

JC. I've never been shy.

i. So when you first met Louise...?

JC. Well, we all had to get dressed to go to that dad gone cotillion. We wore formal gowns-- at that time she did. It was an annual thing. We had a good time. But that was my first time to meet Louise.

i. How did she impress you then?

JC. I felt real comfortable. I don't know how she felt.

i. Were Louise and Lucille so different even then?

JC. They've always been different. Well, Lucille is older and I think she tried to take care of Weezer-- I've always called Louise Weezer-- and in a way, I think Lucille may have felt a little bit responsible (for her).

i. Was Boone like either of his sisters?

(Nods head NO)

A different individual too. And then you met their parents.

JC. I call them Granny and Paw. They lived right across the street. See, Boone and I lived in that family home for 7 or 8 years after we were married in 1939. Granny and Paw were so good to me. My mother died a couple years after Boone and I married and Granny was just my Mommy. And Paw Caudill, bless his heart, he was a business man. But he liked to play checkers and pool and bridge and read. Granny took care of us-- oh, but he was the provider and so forth but Granny just kind of held everything together. You would have loved her. A cute little lady. They were awfully nice to me and I tried to return it.

i. And you have children?

JC. Oh, yes. Susie, Etta Jane, Proc and Sally. Proc lives here in the outskirts of Morehead. He has three boys, Boone, Aaron, and Ben.

I. And he works at the bank— do you still work at the bank? Do you like it?

JC. Oh, yes. I love it.

I. And when did Boone die?

JC. In 1970. Heart. I was in the hospital with Boone in Lexington and we thought he might be doing a little bit better. I was with him in intensive care and I couldn't call Weezer and the doctor did. That was it. We came home then.

I. Did you and Boone build this house?

JC. Boone and I bought this house in 1947 but we built all of this part on. We were crowded with four kids running in and out.

I. If you were working in Sandy Hook, why live here? That's such a hard drive.

JC. Well, Boone had an emotional illness and I needed help. And Weezer and Granny Caudill helped me. They lived right across the street.

I. And Louise's practice was—

JC. When I first came here, she was in physical education up at the University. That was in '39 and she started med school in '43. Then she came back, she graduated in '46 and went to Oneida. That's where she met Susie and came back here and began practicing in January of '48— upstairs. You probably know all about that.

I. I talked to Susie and asked her what her first impression of Morehead was— she came here alone.

JC. Yes, she came here on the train. I met Susie on the six o'clock train. Louise, I think was in New York with a Chinese doctor that had been here. I can remember what we had for dinner that night. Roast beef, potatoes, and carrots and slaw. That was before we built this part back here and that's where we ate, in the kitchen. And the four kids were here. But, Susie was just as— seemed comfortable.

I. She wasn't scared?

JC. No, Susie's not scared of anything.

I. I think— because she's so quiet.

JC. Laid back.

I. Anyway, she said she came into your living room and thought she saw blood on your

fireplace— or something.

JC. Oh, yes, it was catsup. We'd been sleighriding and we'd had hamburgers in the living room and the heat was off— and I remember that.

I. So you lived here when their father died?

JC. Oh, sure, 1967. And Granny died in 1976.

I. Was it true she was a terrible driver?

JC. Oh, you know where this four way stop is down here? She never stopped, she went right through it. She got several— oh, not exactly parking... It was for double parking. She had to go collect her rent— have you heard this one? Well, she went to collect the rent— they owned several pieces of property— and she parked in front of the police station one day— they had property right next to the police station. So she went in to collect her rent and when she came back she had a ticket. So she took it into the police station and said, "I'm not going to pay this. I've just been here a minute or two." So they kind of argued with her and she said, "Just give me another ticket." And they did. Louise and I paid her parking tickets.

I. I'll bet their household was pretty active.

JC. They played bridge; weekends we played bridge. Sometimes all night and who lost had to wash the dishes. Very competitive people. And there was their sister Patty and brother Bud. He's in Monticello. (?) There's Cille, Weezer, Boone, Buddy and Pat. Buddy was a terrific athlete; very likable and a good old boy.

I. Something I wish you could talk about is— Louise has such a feel for people and such an influence on people and their lives, how has she influenced yours?

JC. Weezer and I have been awfully close and particularly since Boone died. Weezer has helped me a lot. There were times when I needed someone and I could always go to Weezer. We've never had— oh, we don't agree on everything— And Weezer, well, her influence on people is the fact that she can make people listen to her. To me, that's the thing in her practice that she has done. And Susie, bless her heart, they have gobs of people down there, and Weezer will sit down and talk to someone and make them feel better and there may be 15 people out there wanting the same thing. That's Weezer's big thing— listening and talking to people. And, also, her love for this hospital and the people she serves.

I. It's real isn't it?

JC. Well, we're awfully close. Yes, I feel she is really my sister too and I hope she would say the same thing and put it that way.

I. What about Susie? She has such charm.

JC. Susie has— well, Weezer and I have talked about this— because Susie is a strong person. She's had a lot of tragedy in her family. Her father died at 36 with cancer and mother had an emotional problem and Susie was raised by her grandmother. She is one of five and she's the eldest. She just has sort of helped her family. Weezer couldn't make it without Susie. No way.

I. She says that too and that Susie has never gotten the credit. She gets credit as Weezer's partner and for the honors. she's happy for Weezer. She never-wanted...

JC. I think it would be nice for Susie to have something.

I. Tell me, if you would get Louise Christmas presents, what would you get her? What is the best thing you can buy her?

JC. Well, I always buy her slacks. Weezer is not a fancy person and she likes tailored slacks and, of course, she can't play tennis anymore— but I bought her tennis shorts. Now, they both love the house and they both like to be comfortable but I don't think they need a dad gone thing as an addition. I tried to buy them a microwave— why, they didn't want one!! I don't know where they'd put it— probably in the bathroom.

I. So they are not interested in modern appliances?

JC. Well, they have everything. Lucille doesn't have a microwave, and I don't mean you have to have it.

I. What could one give her for a present then, that would really delight her?

JC. Well, in a way she is attached to possessions. She's very appreciative of what she has and if she wants something, she gets it. And Susie is the same thing. Now, Susie likes dresses. Oh, and Weezer LOVES jewelry.

I. She does?

JC. Oh, gosh yes. Have you seen that bracelet of hers?

I. No. I usually only see them on Saturday morning and they are in sweat suits or casual and dressed up— only from far away.

JC. Oh, she has a bracelet from Mexico and it is fabulous. Now, she loves jewelry.

I. You see, you just helped us a lot. We are trying to think about what does Louise Caudill wear that is typical of her. I never thought it would be jewelry.

JC. Oh, yes!! Lots of bracelets. And she likes rings.

I. Really? I've never seen one on her hand. Again, I'm there one Saturdays. But she does wear them— like out to dinner? What kind?

JC. Oh, she likes jewels. She really does.

I. See, I'd never have know that and she never said...

JC. Well, practicing and so forth, she would never, ever wear... and she likes to dress up.

i. She says she doesn't. Let me ask you, the other morning I was thinking about what would happen if she closed up her practice— don't you think a lot of people would be disturbed or scared or insecure?

JC. Yes, and I think she worries about that. I think that's why she is staying on— up to a point. I think now she has begun to think about herself some. On the other hand, she has to think about how she could occupy her time. She loves to read. And I think that's a problem right now— how she would occupy her time should she stop. I'd hate to see her do it

I. Do you use her as your doctor too?

JC. Oh, sure. I know of doctors in Lexington—who have said that is one of the best diagnosticians that they have known. I mean, she might be diagnosing something but if she were not sure, she would send them on. Usually they concurred with her. And I'm not saying it was always. And Weezer's thing about people and getting the hospital.

I. Now, you've watched her with all kinds of people for many years— and what is it? She's different, you don't forget her. What is it about her?

JC. Well, she's a people person.

I. So are lots of people, but there's only one of her.

JC. I don't know the word. Can you think of a word?

I. I sure can't. That's why I'm asking other people. Something undefinable. So I think that maybe people who have been around her a long time can. She makes you feel so good being around her.

JC. I guess it's her caring. Oh, I can't say the word. She has some sort of a charisma that draws you to her and you feel comfortable. I don't know the word.

I. Actually, I'm not sure there is one.

JC. Now, on the other hand, Louise is very timid. Boone was timid. Boone and Louise

were very much alike. She doesn't like to be in crowds and Boone didn't either. Boone and Weezer were the nearest alike of the five kids.

I. I guess *that's* a new way to think about her— timid or shy.

JC. She is.

I. Maybe because I associate that with being scared of people and I don't think she's scared of anybody.

JC. No, but she really is timid and Boone was and my son, Proc, he is. And they all do have personality qualities but down deep— they are timid. They kind of sit back— don't want to take the spotlight. No, not out of fear.

I. It has seemed to me that Louise is the one to reach out to someone who might be timid and tries to make them comfortable.

JC. She does but it depends on the situation. Ok, if there were twelve people in this room right now, Louise would not be the leader. What I mean is, she would not be the one who comes in and says, *how's everybody* and *what are we doing tonight?* Boone was that way, and Proc is that way. Now, I'm not. I'll just get things going. And I'm— well, it's personality differences. But, when things get started, they all get into it.

I. Could it also be that some people feel so good about themselves they don't need to do it?

JC. No, they are just timid. Now I may be wrong but they are not people who will come out and try to exploit themselves in a crowd. You can see that in Weezer. You know she is outgoing and so forth but she's not one to hold the floor.

I. I guess it could be that. When I've seen her out, she is so well known that you know she's there but you don't realize that she's not the one talking— she's just kind of smiling at everyone and now that I think about it, that's right.

JC. As you know, Susie takes care of her. Susie does everything. Bless her heart, Weezer can fry an egg and she can cook a steak and I think she can make coffee but that's about it.

I. Louise says that herself. Susie, to me, always puts Louise first and makes her like the one who is important.

JC. Susie is a very humble person.

I. And genuine.

JC. Proc and I talk about it a lot— how gracious she is. Susie is just a fine fine person.

I. She didn't deliver any of your children did she?

JC. Oh yes. She delivered Sally right here (in this house) on Thanksgiving day! Oh, we had a ball!! Right here in that bedroom. We planned it. She was the youngest of our four. All the others were in a hospital— and that was before the hospital here. So, they asked me and I said, that's fine with me. Now, they were teetotally scared to death. Both of them.

I. And you weren't?

JC. No. I called them up about three o'clock in the morning. See, my water broke the week before and I was working. Anyway, on Wednesday— why, I'm telling you the life story of all of us! On Wednesday, Weezer said, well, we'll probably have it tonight. So I called them and they came over. (They lived in the family home across the street at that time) And, they got right in bed with me.

I. They got in bed with you?!!

JC. Yes, Weezer and Susie both got in bed with me. Now, Proc and Sally were singing at church in the choir. No, Susie and Etta Jane. The two oldest were singing in the church, so I combed their hair and tied their bows and they went off to church and came back and they had a baby sister. Boone was here taking care of Proc. He was a nervous wreck, yes, I thought he'd like to die. And they used to go out on deliveries all night long.

I. How did they ever have the energy? And Susie said they'd come back to people lined up here. But they said they came first to your house to do the laundry.

JC. Well, it was called packs— delivery packs— and we never locked our doors then and they'd come in— say at one, two, three, or four and put something in my wash machine. Granny didn't have a wash machine. I'd get them out the next morning and put them in the dryer. Sometimes they'd have three or four. And these were big packs and all that stuff you drape with.

I. What about the rest about having your baby here at home. You called them at 3 a.m. but still you got your kids off to church.

JC. Sally was born, I think, about nine in the morning. Now this was three in the morning when I called them and they came over and got in bed with me in the bedroom. Proc was crying— anyway, I was just as calm as a cucumber. But they were as nervous as a whore in church. They just put their little portable table on the bed. They did all the prenatal care.

I. They were scared because it was you?

JC. Well, put yourself in their place. So, I took a shower about an hour and a half later and we had Thanksgiving dinner.

I. When they got in bed with you, was it to help with contractions or tell jokes or what?

JC. Oh, no, they wanted to go back to sleep. They were tired.

I. Would you mind if I use that story?

JC. No. No. And she won't mind. It was a fun time and when the kids came home from church on Thanksgiving morning, they had a little sister and they went running up and down this street yelling they had a little sister. About 2 o'clock I had a can of beer! Yes, Granma and Paw Caudill were here.

I. What a wonderful kind of life.

JC. Yes. And, you see, Louise and Susie were living over there (across the street) then. And then they built the office in 1957 and had the apartment in the back and had the delivery rooms.

I. When they were living over there they said people often came here to get them. Did you hear any of that?

JC. Oh, yes. One time a lady came with a wasp sting and she was in distress with breathing. I remember coming into the dining room and Weezer— see, at that time they carried a bag with them all the time, with whatever they needed for emergencies. Then another time some people— now I can't tell this straight— but ask Weezer about it. Some people, Abernathy, from Tennessee. You couldn't tell it but that lady was in labor and Louise delivered her in Granny's bed.

I. What happened to Granny?

JC. Well, Granny just went along with everything. Ask her.

I. Was her mother pretty proud of her daughter the doctor?

JC. Oh, yes. Now, Paw Caudill didn't want her to go to med school— she's probably told you.

I. She said that he said she could do anything she wanted to.

JC. Well, he didn't think that women should be doctors.

I. That's probably what all men thought at that time.

JC. Well, at that time there was no women's lib. Actually, Paw Caudill was pretty liberal and he was awfully proud of Louise. He was there when she graduated. That was during the war and we lived in Sandy Hook at that time and there really was no formal graduation. And she was on an accelerated program and she went three years— there was nothing

formal and I know we didn't have tires or gasoline then.

i. But her father was proud of her.

JC. Oh, gosh, yes. He didn't want her to do it— in the beginning. But, Paw was proud of all of his kids. His main goal, in his life, was education.

i. Did all five go through college?

JC. Yes. Boone became a lawyer—was in law school when I met him. He was a banker and never did practice law very much. Boone's ideal was his father. He looked up to him and it's hard. But Boone was a super person— oh, the best dancer in this world.

i. I know you are still working but you still see Louise all the time.

JC. Well, I don't see her as much as I used to because of driving back and forth (to Sandy Hook) but I talk to her every night. I call her at five minutes after seven every night.

i. And you go to the same church.

JC. Oh, sure.

• i. What keeps her going?

JC. Louise has, oh, she and I talk about it, things like this a lot of times, about religion and oh, who knows? You leave but what do you leave and how do you leave? And I'm no scholar on religion— Louise is more than I am. She has her own strength.

A healer? Well, I don't think that in her own concept of herself she feels that way. She loves to please. I'll tell you another thing about Weezer— and I think this is characteristic of many— you have to keep your self esteem going. I think she doesn't really realize how much she has helped people. And she doesn't make over herself— you know that— because she's timid.

i. I guess I would say she is humble and she does what she does because that's what she does.

JC. She doesn't have to do it.