ME 'N SUSIE

A profile of Dr. Claire Louise Caudill of Morehead, Kentucky.

A Play in Two Acts for one performer.

by
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Written from personal research.

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We do nothing in this life entirely on our own. The places and the people around us provide the warp and woof of any human accomplishment. These interviews, then, became a kind of tapestry of interwoven voices from one time and one place about one woman. It was out of these voices that Dr. Claire Louise Caudill's voice rises like a fine solo that needs to be heard with the background choir of friends and family and colleagues in the setting of her own beloved homeplace of Morehead, Kentucky.

This collection of interviews and the play script that resulted from them is based on the life of one small woman; Dr. Claire Louise Caudill, whose whole life has been spent in and for one small town in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. The radiance of her personality had inspired me to write a play about her so that the life of this remarkable woman might be shared with and inspire other people—especially the young women of Eastern Kentucky—so that her radiant personality—to be conveyed to a future audience in the form of a one-person staged play.

This book is divided into three sections: A set of individual narratives, the complete set of interviews done with Dr. Louise and Susie, and the resultant play script, drawn from these sources. The original idea for these interviews was to provide additional and background information on the life of Dr. Claire Louise Caudill. Although the interviews were meant to center on the world around Louise— they can stand alone like a complex tapestry of voices—singing of a time and a place.

These oral histories have to do with what a difference one life can make to a community and what a community has to do with creating a life. The stories orbit around Dr. Louise and Susie and the growth of a town and a hospital. This is a word painting of a time and place. These voices "sing" of separate experiences rising out of a sense of place, of the past, the present, and a future that surely will continue on the path set for it. The narratives cross and recross just as do the ordinary lives of people in a small town.
The original idea for these interviews was to provide additional background and information of the life of Dr. Claire Louise Causil and her nurse Susie Halbleib. In the rereading of these tangential interviews, it became evident that there is a charm and resonance in these secondary interview voices, that can also sing alone-- as they stand as individual lives and experiences that should not be lost. The interviews have been edited simply-- the questions have been excluded in order to preserve the obvious narrative flow. It is obvious where the-- questions have been--

The core of the play "Me 'n Susie" will be found in the voices of the interviews with Dr. Louise and her nurse Susie. A play can only last two hours, but the tapestry of these voices can remain. The individual narratives sing with their own resonance, charm, memories and voice a story of not only one woman, but of a time and place and the struggles and victories of one small Eastern Kentucky town. These parts, when woven together, stand as a testament and support to what a dedicated and determined individual can accomplish.

I trust that all their songs will resonate in Kentucky history-- because it is a small segment of all of history and what it means to be a human. This will speak to anyone who has ever lived in this area. My thanks go to all of them. To borrow a quote from Dr. Caudill herself, "I have been blessed with people."

Shirley Gish, Ph.D.

December 1995
The material for this play was taken from personal interviews with the following people:

Dr. Claire Louise Caudill

Miss Susie Halbleib, R.N.

The series of interviews with Dr. Caudill and her nurse, Miss Halbleib, was begun in August of 1992 and statements and quotes are used with their permission.

Others interviewed were:

Mrs. Lucille Caudill Little of Lexington, Kentucky. Mrs. (Paul ) Little is Dr. Caudill's older sister.

Sister Jean Francis is one of the first Sisters of Notre Dame who opened the St. Claire Medical Center. She still works there as head nurse in the emergency room.

Mrs. Jane Caudill, wife of Boone Caudill, who was Dr. Caudill's next-in-line brother. She is now head of the People's Bank, Sandy Hook, Kentucky and Dr. Caudill is on the Board of this, her father's bank.

Mr. Bob Bishop of Morehead, Kentucky. He is Dr. Caudill's childhood friend and companion and is still her closest friend.

Dr. James Quisenberry. Former Professor of Communications at Morehead State University. He is the father of two children delivered by Dr. Caudill and is also her next door neighbor.

Mr. Eldon "Tick" Evans. Grew up with Dr. Caudill and was the Mayor of Morehead during the early years when the hospital was planned. Served on board of St. Claire Medical Center.

Mrs. Elie Reser, R.N.. A nurse who is now in charge of Hospice Services for the hospital. She is also a close friend, admirer, and patient of Dr. Caudill.
Dr. Louise: I think a lot like Dad.
    Int: How's that?
Dr. Louise: Well, he never said very much but just sort of plondered along in his own footsteps and came out with what he...
Susie: Well, he read a lot.
    Int: Your father was a banker?
Dr. Louise: He was a lawyer too.
    Int: A lawyer, and he didn't talk much?
Susie: It depends on the situation. He was always with a book in his hand.
Dr. Louise: ... not really in court. He was a judge most of the time but he still didn't talk. He listened.
    Int: Do you find that you do that too?
Dr. Louise: I believe I listen pretty good, don't you Sus? Unless you get my ire up then, boy, look out!
    Int: Do you know when that's going to happen?
Dr. Louise: It's liable to be anything-- if it irritates my insides and there may not have been a reason in the world to it. It's mostly feelings. I go by feelings, I don't go by sense.
    Int: Do you feel better after or do you wish you hadn't?
Dr. Louise: I don't know that I wish I hadn't, but I'm sorry I did.
    Int: Would you say that your father was one of your heroes?
Dr. Louise: Yes. I don't know that I was striving to be like him but, as I tell you, I didn't go by thinking...
    Int: (to Susie) If you think back, can you see that your parents were a big influence?
Susie: Oh, sure. I can see a lot of things. I do things especially like my mother. We had plenty of aunts and plenty of relatives. I mean, we were not-- we were sheltered. Let me put it that way. Somebody loved us.
    Int: Are you from Kentucky too?
Susie: I'm from Louisville. I went to high school there, Ursuline Academy, and then I went to the Nazareth College (clinical at St. Joseph Infirmary) for my nurses training.

Int: You always knew you wanted to be a nurse?

Susie: Oh, yes, I was always going to be a nurse. I said it for so long that I had to do it to save face. Oh, I did everything. I dressed dolls up like nurses. I was always going to be a nurse and I loved starched white uniforms. White starched uniforms, I really do.

Dr. Louise: You could have been a P.E. major. I had white shirts all starched and wore sharkskin shorts. I think about that--I stayed with white. Not when I started out. I wore pink and blue, and...

Int: I've noticed in Kentucky is this wonderful 'kin' system--that people don't want to leave their kin or family, and want to stay with them.

Dr. Louise: I think that's true.

Susie: I think more in the hills.

Dr. Louise: I was thinking of a fellow who called this morning. This morning I got a call from this man from out near--Grande City--and he had some pictures and they had been painted in 18 and 40 and they're supposed to be, he thought, perhaps of my great grandmother and great grandfather, or somebody like that. And he wanted to bring them over sometime and I didn't know anything about it. It is the Proctor side of my family, and I just know very little about that side of the family. Of course, the Tolliver side has been played up a lot.

Int: Why do you suppose people make such a to-do about those violent confrontations?

Dr. Louise: People don't like anything to run smooth--because it doesn't have excitement. Everybody likes it when something turns upside-down, when people do something mean. The world does, everybody is just tickled to death because it proves... I mean, people just love to hear that.

Int: Why, do you suppose? Why do they feud?

Dr. Louise: It's the nature of us, I reckon. You have to have the good side and the bad side.

Int: Well, it sounds like the bad side is more interesting.

Dr. Louise: Well, it is, for the world.

Susie: Well, and I think it is true, you can talk about your relatives, but nobody else can!

Int: I guess that the kin system and your allegiance to your own family is very strong. Is that why you chose to stay in this area?
Dr. Louise: Yes, I think so. But, I think I was afraid to get out of it. I didn’t like big cities. I
time, I liked just the way I lived right here. I like the hills and I liked what I thought would be a
good way to live. Right here. And I didn’t think you could do that anywhere else. And I still
believe it. I like everything right here and environment is awful important I think.

Int: Environment—would that be family and friends, or...?

Dr. Louise: These hills, everything, just all the things.

Susie: And your family.

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes, they are really important to me.

Int: You used to live on Wilson Avenue?

Dr. Louise: Right there at the top of the hill where the Huffmans live now. Lived there from a
kid on.

Int: That’s the first house you remember?

Dr. Louise: No, we lived in lots of houses but I only remember bits and snatches of other
houses. Then, my grandmother and grandfather ran a hotel. It was down on First Street, right
across from what is now the freight station. It burned down. I don’t know when it burned. I’d say
early 30’s or 20’s or somewhere along in there.

Int: What did they do? Where did they go?

Dr. Louise: Actually, they lived someplace else, but they lived there too and I had two uncles
that helped. Uncle Herb died when he was very young--27 or 29. And then we lived down on
Main Street for a few years, right next to the Post Office. That’s where I sold my lemonade.

Int: You sold lemonade on Main Street?

Dr. Louise: Yes.

Int: How old were you?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I guess 7 or 8, somewhere along in there. And we made mud pies, you could
sell those too. You’d put a real cherry in them.

Int: Did you have satisfied customers?

Dr. Louise: Oh, we did pretty good.

Int: Was it you and your brothers and sisters?

Dr. Louise: Oh, my brother helped some, but mostly me and a friend that lived down the street.

Int: Did you make much money?
Dr. Louise: Oh, we had some nickels and pennies and dimes when the day was done.

Int: And what would you do with the money?

Dr. Louise: Oh, we made us up a thing to do. We ordered clothes from Sears and Roebuck.

Int: Really!

Susie: I haven't heard this tale.

Dr. Louise: We knew about this girl and her brother-- I did tell you about this-- well, anyway, they didn't have any money and they lived back way off up there where the school is now (University area)-- up in there. And we thought that they needed some clothes. So, we ordered her a coat and some shoes... but we didn't have enough for her brother.

Int: So, you and your little girlfriend got clothes for this girl-- what was your friends name?

Dr. Louise: Sydney Evans.

Int: Is she still around?

Dr. Louise: Nobody's around anymore. Anyway, we took this stuff over there. She was just a little girl around town.

Int: Did you ever think of giving her your own clothes?

Dr. Louise: No, we wanted new clothes for her. Well, we took the things over there and we couldn't find the way back. It was getting dark and we were scared to death. We ended up way up the top of Wilson Avenue trying to get back.

Int: Did your mother know what you were up to?

Dr. Louise: Yes, she knew what we were doing. She even helped us a little bit.

Int: Did you sell the lemonade to do this?

Susie: Did you know that, then you sold the lemonade, or not till you got the money?

Dr. Louise: Not till we got the money.

Int: Why, you could have used that money and gone and bought yourself some candy.

Dr. Louise: We could go to Daddy's office and get stamps and buy candy. We'd go up to the office and his secretary would give us postage stamps and they'd give us candy. Didn't you ever have any fun like that?

Int: What kind of little kid were you?

Dr. Louise: Oh, we did everything. We were very interested in knowing what was going on. We even had circuses.
Int: In the back yard?

Dr. Louise: Actually, we usually had our circuses up by Daddy’s office. In the back-- now it would be right where Holbrook’s Drug Store is... back in there. The main reason for doing it there was that the best character in our circus lived behind there. He could play and make snakes do things-- live snakes-- and he’d go get ‘em and he’d have ‘em there for the circus. He turned out to be quite an outlaw. His name was Joe. I think he went out west and into the hills and nobody could catch him and we never knew what happened to him. But, he was real nice-- he gave me a cameo ring. So, I thought he was an awful nice guy. Well, everybody played with the snakes.

Int: They weren’t poisonous?

Dr. Louise: I don’t know, I think some of them were. I don’t know one snake from another snake. Lord, I haven’t thought of this stuff in 40 years!

Int: What was your specialty in the circus?

Dr. Louise: Oh, we all did tricks. Have someone stand on your shoulders. I was always doing flips and twisting and turning, cartwheels, that was my position.

Int: Didn’t your mother dress you up in ruffles and bows?

Dr. Louise: We had to dress up. See, I had an older sister, Lucille, and she always wore green and blue and I always wore red and pink, yellow-- those colors. And Mother would dress us all up in the afternoon and take us to Aunt Dell’s and sometimes I’d get lost, or I’d see Roy Day and we’d get into a fight. We’d do all sorts of rough things like that. We’d be all prissed up.

... Int: “Prissed up”... that’s a wonderful word!

Susie: Hair curled?

Int: Did you hate that?

Dr. Louise: No, it was OK. I sort of liked it if you just got dressed up and then that was all, an hour. I liked to look pretty for a little while and then that was enough. I didn’t like just staying pretty but my sister liked that.

Susie: She still does!

Dr. Louise: And then my brother did too. He always wore a coat. He liked coats and ties. Me, I didn’t stay very ‘prissed.’
Int: Was your mother lady-like... in social clubs and things?

Dr. Louise: They didn’t social club too much back in those days.

Susie: Well, she belonged to the Circle at church.

Int: Which church was that?

Dr. Louise: Christian.

Int: Is that the Disciples church that has music?

Dr. Louise: Yes, they have music.

Int: Do you still go to that church?

Dr. Louise: Yes.

Int: Did you go to Sunday School?

Dr. Louise: I went to Sunday School. My grandfather knew you would go to hell if you didn’t go to that church. (Christian)

Int: You say the changes now (in medicine) are unbelievable-- how are things now unbelievable?

Dr. Louise: When I was in school we had just begun to have EKG’s-- that is electrocardiograms-- and they had four leads. Now we have twelve. A lead is so you get the impulse from different places. So, originally we had four different ways of doing that and now there are twelve. But we didn’t have much of that at all then, it was just sort of a beginning thing and... to me, that’s just mind boggling to think that back in those days we didn’t use one. We bought an EKG in about ’59... along in there. And I took a course...

Susie: In fact, you took two courses... in how to read it... at the University of Kentucky. Oh, there was snow then, snow knee deep and you’d get stuck.

Dr. Louise: One night I never will forget-- we didn’t get there (Lexington) until about time the course was over. Then I took a correspondence course from St. Louis. We did that a lot, didn’t we? (to Susie) Took courses... a little bit here and...

Susie: Well, you couldn’t be gone that long-- gone to Lexington. You had nobody to cover for you back then. (before the hospital)

Dr. Louise: And you had to have that challenge. See, that was the important thing to me... if you were just working by yourself... to read. Now, Susie, she still does. She learned an awful lot of medicine. She can see when I’m making mistakes. And you’d need another doctor too.
Susie: You sure do, you need somebody to consult.

Dr. Louise: The only things we had to learn really, was from the books in the back of the car--when we'd go out on deliveries.

Susie: We got a lot of reading done then--a lot!

Dr. Louise: And that's so important--to keep up with what's going on. You've got to treat the whole body and can't know just one little angle. And, you know, it's a sad thing that people (when you're a doctor) don't want you to say, "Well, I'm sick." And that's all they want to tell you and you are supposed to figure it out--that's your job. They won't tell you if their head hurts or their back hurts. Well, a lot of that is changing now. They've read a lot, about estrogens and what they'll do to you...

Int: What would happen early, early on, when you were having to travel East (into the mountains)? What kind of territory did you cover? How far away?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I guess we'd go 50 miles in every direction.

Susie: We'd go to every county around Rowan County: Carter County Bath County, Elliot and Morgan, Fleming County--a lot. At Olive Hill, they've always had a doctor. But, now, maybe they'd have one or two but they'd be gone.

Int: How would they get to you?

Dr. Louise: They'd come--they'd drive over to get you.

Susie: You're talking about going out and making deliveries.

Int: Yes, how did they get to you to get there? I can't imagine that all those cabins had phones in them.

Susie: Oh, they'd come to us...somebody, a relative, or they would go to the grocery store or a place like that and then somebody, the husband usually, would meet you there and would lead the way in his truck. Sometimes he'd take us in the truck if the road was real bad.

Int: So you were walking into some unknown territory there.

Susie: Oh, often. Often.

Dr. Louise: We even went in a sleigh. Yes, a horse and a sleigh. That was an experience!

Int: These were people you'd met before?

Susie: Oh, yes, we always (or almost always) saw our prenatals before. We started with prenatal care. I mean, you had to have prenatal care.
Int: Had they heard of that before?

Dr. Louise: No.

Susie: Not much.

Dr. Louise: One that always stands out in my mind was, this fella came in and wanted us to deliver his wife... said she was due right away. We said, "Well, you have to bring her in first." He said, "Well, she'll deliver soon." We said, "If you want us to deliver her, you have to bring her in." And so the next day he brought her into the office. Now, this was back in the very beginning-- back about 1948, and we checked her and she wasn't pregnant. Well, they thought we didn't have very good sense because she could outline the baby and show you its feet and everything. He thought she was too. Anyway, she thought really she was pregnant. Now, we could have, easy enough gone off some night about 3 a.m. on some long journey and find that we were delivering somebody that wasn't pregnant.

Int: Maybe I'm thinking of movies where someone rushes in and says, 'Doctor, doctor, come quick!' And you didn't even know them--

Dr. Louise: Yes, we've done such as that.

Susie: Lots of times.

Dr. Louise: Got there and found she'd been in labor two or three days with only an arm hanging out.

Susie: A midwife had been there, an untrained midwife. I want to stress that. But, that's all they had.

Int: Would they lose a lot of babies like that?

Dr. Louise: No, most of the time they don't lose babies-- occasionally.

Int: Did you ever encounter a clash of folk beliefs and modern ideas?

Dr. Louise: Well, a lot of the women would be pretty drunk by the time we got there to deliver. They drank the alcohol-- yes, for the pain.

Int: Was there any clash from midwives, or a woman's beliefs... or...

Susie: I'll answer that. A lot of times, if you delivered by forceps, people really thought this was a terrible thing and it is a lot easier on the woman in some cases, and a lot of people objected to that. Oh, bitterly, about forceps.
Dr. Louise: And that would make you uncover...

Susie: Yes, and a lot of people didn’t want you to uncover... We had a delivery table that we put on the bed. Yes, we carried it with us. Oh, we were weighted down. We couldn’t begin to carry all that now. We took IV fluids, oh, we took everything. Each of us had two BIG bags! Oh, you wouldn’t believe how proper we were.

Dr. Louise: Or thought we were!

Int: Well, was it hard to persuade the women to come to town? They could have said, ‘Well, my mother didn’t do that.’

Dr. Louise: They’d just plain come. We said we didn’t want them to be caught without someone to take care of them. Come in first, or we wouldn’t go!

Susie: In other words, they had to bring them in before we went out. But, occasionally, this one would come and you’d have to go anyway. Some people we’d never seen—such as this case she was talking about... with the baby’s arm hanging out.

Int: Did the baby live?

Susie: Oh, no, it was probably dead a day or two.

Int: Did you lose many patients?

Dr. Louise: Now, statistics don’t tell you anything, because if there was something wrong they’d go someplace else. And actually, in this territory with that kind of condition, you never really get the picture. I believe you can say that’s pretty true. Now, if we’d run into a bad problem, Susie would go with them and take them to Lexington, so they’d die in Lexington.

Int: Did anyone ever die that you took to Lexington?

Susie: No, well, we had one mother to die.

Int: Really, in all these years?

Dr. Louise: And, oh, I know you shouldn’t say that, but we sent her to Lexington.

Susie: No, but they sent her back because she wasn’t in active labor but by the time she got back she was and we delivered her and she had a tear in her uterus and it ruptured and she died and nobody could help that. But it was a really bad situation. The little baby lived and we tried to get the mother back to Lexington but she died.

Int: I am amazed. Considering conditions, that in all those years you’ve been delivering babies... since?
Susie: Since 1948. Yes, but none of the mothers ever died that we took.

Int: How long did it take? I mean, there wasn't the interstate.

Susie: There was a road. It's still there, Highway 60 and that took two hours. And the funeral homes, had ambulances—but if you had to lie down you went in the hearse. That was a regular routine around here. If you had to have an ambulance, the funeral homes would furnish hearses up until, oh, 1970. That was the case here. From '70 on there was an ambulance service... the dog catcher's van.

Well, I-64 came through here maybe in '63. They were working on it because we were working on the hospital then. It was '63 or '64, we were working on the hospital. Oh, yes. Dick Carpenter. He got the ambulance service. Dick worked hard on getting that ambulance service.

Int: What other things might people call you for? Or, did you just take care of mothers?

Dr. Louise: Well, we got called for a woman who had pneumonia but she really had a vulvar abscess. But, they said she had pneumonia.

Susie: But, they may not have known. She had a high fever, and back then if you had a high fever you must always have pneumonia, and that could have been an honest mistake.

Dr. Louise: Well, we'd go a lot of times for cardiac (decomp)... heart failure. We did that all the time. They just couldn't breathe.

Int: But, could you get there fast enough?

Dr. Louise: Well, it all depended. Sometimes they'd call early enough. I remember the first one we had where we couldn't do anything. It was cardiac decomp. She was all swollen, everything was swollen. She was sitting outside and it was just a little after dark and we had a flashlight. But, in order to be able to get the fluid out you had to be able to hit a vein and I guess it was impossible from the word go. You could not see a vein, you could not see an arm.

Int: She was sitting outside just waiting for you?

Dr. Louise: She was just waiting to die, I guess. Her husband was with her.

Susie: It's better to sit up. You can breathe better. So it made sense, her sitting outside. She felt better.

Dr. Louise: But we couldn't see to do anything. Not much could be done. We had one like that-- that was real bad off like that. And we got up once at 3 o'clock one Sunday morning and we got there and they wouldn't let us do anything. Said they'd already had a doctor.
Susie: Heart attack... But, we've had a lot of strange experiences like that. We used to see a lot of different things, like kids here in town would get chicken pox. You wouldn't have them come into your office because they're contagious. You'd go to the home to see them, and measles.

Dr. Louise: Well, they had sense. Most mothers knew when a kid had measles or chicken pox.

Susie: But, I'm sure many a kid caught measles in our office. We used to see a lot of children, a lot.

Int: Were your patients mostly children?

Susie: There were a lot of children. They weren't mostly children. We saw everything! But, a lot of children. There are pediatricians here now. I don't know if I could stand that screaming now at our age. I don't know, we just had a lot of commotion around our office all the time.

Dr. Louise: Oh, I got bitten on the arm one time! That child drew blood! Oh, he didn't want me to touch him. He caught me, and I wasn't very fast!

Int: When people were dying then, they probably stayed at home. Was it like the hospice program now?

Susie: Yes, family comes, church people...

Dr. Louise: Neighbors.

Susie: You were expected to die at home.

Dr. Louise: Well, you knew you were gonna die. You know, back when we started, people, women were still dying of cancer of the cervix. Now, we've been around for a while and that's long gone. Then they were young, and I mean, they would just be miserable. It really was so long and drawn out and they'd be sick for so long.

Int: Did they know why?

Susie: Well, when they got so bad off you could plainly see what the problem was and there wasn't much you could do about it. You couldn't spot it ahead of time. We didn't have pap smears then, and well, pap smears mean a whale of a lot.

Dr. Louise: When they say those are not much good these days, why it just burns me up, they don't realize. And when you see something like that you just don't realize...

Susie: The horrible way they died, and the pain...
Dr. Louise: And usually it was somebody that was way out in the country and had dirty sheets.

Susie: Had nobody with them. Never had anything in their lives.

Dr. Louise: Oh, it just cut you. What could we do? Didn’t have anybody with ’em.

Int: It must have torn you up to see that and know you couldn’t . . .

Dr. Louise: Helpless. . . and you didn’t know when they would bleed to death.

Int: I read in Mildred Haun’s book that women in the mountains then were just used.

Dr. Louise: Just used, that’s all they were.

Susie: I think life like that was fading by that time (1940’s), but, I think it was still true to some extent.

Int: Do you thing the roads getting better changed the isolation here?

Susie: Oh, definitely.

Dr. Louise: You just try to get there, back in those days!!

Int: How did you get back there? Did you have a jeep?

Dr. Louise: No, we did not have a four wheel drive jeep. Most people’d pick us up. We’d drive our car to, say, someplace, like a grocery store and then they would lead us there. Some might have a jeep or a truck, might have a wagon, or they might have a horse.

Int: Did you ever ride in on horses?

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes, we did that up in Clay County. We didn’t know how to ride a horse either!

Int: How did you carry all your supplies?

Susie: We just carried a bag. We had that other stuff when we were going to deliver a baby-- then we carried our IV fluids and our table. One time we had a woman way out. The only person there was her husband and her little boy and she was going to deliver a premature baby and we were trying to get her out of there and she was bleeding. She had a placenta previa (which means that the afterbirth’s coming first) and she was bleeding. And so we tried. Well, there wasn’t any way to get that woman out of there. We put her between sheets and carried her out, the two of us-- and the man carrying the bags.

Dr. Louise: You know, just rolling up the blanket.

Susie: Yes, that’s what we did-- we carried her out.
Dr. Louise: A 'fur' piece!

Susie: Yes, a long way. About a mile or so! Luckily, she was little too.

Dr. Louise: And then we got an ambulance and the ambulance took the patient and me to Lexington to deliver the baby and she got along alright. The baby was premature, but it lived.

Int: Did many people try to name their babies after you?

Susie: There were an awful lot of Louise's and Susie's.

Dr. Louise: And a lot of people named them together-- Susan Louise.

Susie: And then there were a few Claire's, but not many people realized that Louise's first name is Claire.

Int: Is that for any reason?

Dr. Louise: Nope, they just called me that. I didn't have anything to do with it. Or 'Weezer', most of 'em couldn't say my first name and they'd call me 'Weez'. Little nieces.

November 7, 1992. At Dr. Caudill's home.

Int: What were you like in school? What was your attitude toward learning and what were you like in high school?

Dr. Louise: Learning was important. Yes, I'd say I studied pretty much and I wanted to be the best in the class. I got to be Valedictorian. But, there was just nine of us! Math was my favorite subject.

Int: What else did you do in high school, besides study?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I was in all the things. You know, in a little school-- if you have a debate club, or if you have a drama group, or whatever you had you had to be in all of it so I was in all of it. I debated, I was in all the plays-- can't say I was the star-- but I was in most of 'em. One of them I had to sing in and that liked to kill me because I can't carry a tune. Oh, I played basketball, but Mother wouldn't let me. But, the coach thought I was pretty good, so we went to-- this was a good experience-- we went over to West Liberty (I think that's where we went) and, of course, I didn't have a uniform and so I couldn't play. The coach said, "Now, Louise, if you were in there we could win this game." So, I got a pair of knickers or something like that and put 'em on and played basketball.
Int: Did your mother find out?

Dr. Louise: I told her. She didn't want... you see, you were supposed to be a lady and I wasn't... So, she'd try to influence me to not want to do things like that. I just wanted to do them. It didn't make me want to do them any more or any less. Finally, she came around and decided I could do whatever I wanted to do. There was no real turmoil over it.

Int: If it was a class of nine, were you all close friends?

Dr. Louise: Oh, we had a big class in the beginning.

Int: Was your social life centered around church?

Dr. Louise: No, I guess school as much as anything. We had a big class in the beginning--not big in your numbers-- you see, the Morehead State Normal School came about the time I was in high school. The State University came from a normal school and, you see, you could go up there in high school so about the time I was a freshman in high school you could-- they said all the girls went up there to find new boys and all the boys went up there to find new girls so... so the nine of us stayed put. The school was right there where the Department of Education is now-- Second Street. I could just run out my back door and be there after the last bell would ring. They tore that building down.

Int: If you had only nine students what did you have for teachers then?

Dr. Louise: Oh, we had, one, two, about four or five teachers. They were divided up, you know, like teachers of math, a language, English.

Int: So, even though you liked to play sports, you liked to study also.

Dr. Louise: I always liked to play sports. I liked to play tennis, we went up on the tennis courts when I was just a kid, usually with friends, but I played some with my sister. Usually with friends--Bob (Bishop) might have played some. I believe he did.

Int: When you graduated from high school, what was in your mind to do?

Dr. Louise: Well, I thought I'd go to college, but I didn't have enough sense to know that you went to college to learn how to make a living. I didn't know that (laughing). My sister went through college before me and all she did was have fun-- Chicago, New York--I just thought going to college was what you did to see the world (I swear that sounds awful) was like before you got ready to settle down... I believe I must have believed that because-- well, you see-- I ALWAYS wanted to be a doctor. Always, always, since I first started going to school.
Int: Had you known a family doctor that interested you, or read books, or...?

Dr. Louise: No. I think that Bob was going to be a pharmacist and we were going to be a team-- and my mother had a friend that was a doctor-- a woman in Cincinnati, but I don't think I ever really met her, but I heard mother talk of her. I would guess six years-- at age six. Bob Bishop was the pharmacist. He was in my class. He was the one-- I had to beat him to be Valedictorian and we went together and played together from the word 'go.' In fact, since first grade we were in a dead heat to see who could be number one.

Int: It strikes me odd that you, as the woman, were the one who would be the doctor.

Dr. Louise: No, his (Bob Bishop's) father was a pharmacist. So, he was going to take his father's place. So I was going to be the doctor and that was as good as anything. We didn't know anything about it-- he didn't know anything more about being a pharmacist than I did about being a physician. We went through every grade together-- never wavered... until I went to college and didn't know what I was supposed to do. I thought you went to college to play and then you went to-- I guess that's about the way. You know, I've tried to think about this since you said something the other day-- and I can't imagine any college student being as ignorant as I was. I hadn't any experience-- I hadn't. I was just a snot-nosed girl who just sort of played and nothing made any difference. You just did whatever you wanted to do.

Int: If you wanted to be a doctor-- like Susie was saying, she was always dressing her dolls, taking care of them-- did you play at doctor?

Dr. Louise: The way we played doctor, we got Castoria and gave out medicine-- that's a laxative.

Susie: That's a good tasting laxative. They used to give it to children a lot. Fosters, ah, Castoria.

Dr. Louise: Later on I took a bullet out of a dog's leg. The dog got shot and the veterinarian was old and he 'didn't want to do that kind of stuff anymore' so Bud went down and he (the vet) gave him the stuff to shoot in it and somethin' to get the bullet out with and, on the back porch I did it. I guess I was 14 or some number like that.

Int: They must have-- you must have had a reputation even then. Did
your whole family know you wanted to be a doctor? Did they discourage you? If they didn't want you to play basketball, didn't they...?

Dr. Louise: I don't think that, basically, my mother thought women worked. I mean, even though her mother was a milliner-- and granny was-- a plume or a feather, and all that sort of stuff-- mother didn't think that women were supposed to work, thought that-- down in her insides. I feel sure that's true. But, she wouldn't tell you not to do it.

Int: What about your father? Did he encourage you?

Dr. Louise: Daddy said, "It's up to you, whatever you want to do." It didn't make any difference whether you were a woman or a man, if you wanted to do something, you could do it.

Int: That was unusual then, wasn't it?

Dr. Louise: Well, I guess it was. But, well, an awful lot of women around here taught-- I mean, you see, the Normal School when it came in it involved women as much as men. Of course, you know the story of Cora Wilson Stewart, but I don't think they considered her a professional. I don't know if I'm saying that right or not. But other than teaching, I think that's about the story of women. I don't think there was anybody around here who was a nurse.

Int: Who were the doctors here when you were young? What did people do when they got sick or broke a leg?

Dr. Louise: We had quite a lot of doctors, we even had an ENT man. (Ears, Nose, Throat) He and his brother did most of the medicine-- Homer Nickel. And then we had a Dr. Blair (not the Blair that is Don's father)-- but maybe his uncle or something like that. Then we had, after that, Dr. Adkins, and, oh, we always had pretty nice doctors. Nobody believes that (laughing) because everybody says there weren't any doctors that wasn't basically true.

Int: So, when you were a little girl, did you get sick and get taken to a doctor?

Dr. Louise: I had a leg ache when I was a little girl (laughter). Yeah, boy, and I think I complain about my legs now. We had Dr. Blair and he used to come see me-- they came to the house-- and he brought this little black bag-- it was about like that-- and opened it up and there were pills on this side and pills on this side (demonstrating). All beautiful colors-- pink, red, green, yellow, anything, and he'd point and say, "Now, which color do you want?" Well, I'd choose pink or yellow and I'd take those pills and then the next morning I'd be fine. Mother
would say, "Oh, you can't go to school this morning, you don't feel like it." "Oh, Mama, I'm perfectly well!" And I'd be perfectly well and I'd go to school the next day. It was aspirin-- in different colors-- I didn't know that.

**Int:** What happened if people got shot or cut or needed their appendix out?

**Dr. Louise:** You had to go to Lexington. Lexington is where we usually went. The funeral homes would take you-- they usually had an ambulance and they took you. I can't remember much of that really. It took about two hours. Except if Eldon was driving, then you'd get there just about like you do now. You remember I talked about Sydney Evans last time, this was her brother.

**Int:** The one you made lemonade with?

**Dr. Louise:** Yes. And planted flowers. Oh, we did all kinds of things. Well, we'd plant zinnias. I think we had zinnias, going down the street-- Cary Avenue there-- down toward the depot we planted them all along there one spring and had flowers. There was always a wide place, about a yard wide from the building to the street, and we just decided that it would look pretty. Oh, we had a great big playhouse-- a pretty good sized playhouse-- and we'd go in there and cook and do things like that. But, seems like we'd always like to get outside-- yeah, all of Morehead was a place to play. Yeah, we played anywhere. Well, we lived right in the middle of town. You knew everybody in town, and everybody knew you and would tell on you. You'd do something and they would call your mother... 'Did you know that your children were doing such and such?' So, small town, there's some good and some bad.

**Int:** So, let's go to what next-- you finished high school and then went right to where?

**Dr. Louise:** Actually, I finished high school in the middle of the year so I went up to the University (Morehead State). I took courses in algebra, chemistry, and physics. I think that is all I took, those three courses. I don't know how I got out early, I just did everything you were supposed to but I came out with enough hours at the end of the first semester.

**Int:** So you knew you were going to medical school?

**Dr. Louise:** Well, yes, I sort of did. In the back of my mind I knew that's where I was headed for and then I went to Ohio State in Columbus. Cille was there, my older sister was going there.
She was studying music primarily. Music was really her field. I don't think she ever planned to teach any more than I did. But, she did teach up here for a while.

**Int:** Had you been out of Morehead when you were younger? Had you traveled?

**Dr. Louise:** Not a lot. Remember it was 1920 something before we had a road out of here. We went by train. Well, I think I told you the other day that Chatauqua's came through here, and things like that. We had them as long as I can remember. Oh, and some had good mysteries and some good musicals, some comedies, some dramas. They were real good. See, as long as I can remember, we had a school here and I think the school brought in lots of people you wouldn't ordinarily have run into.

**Susie:** You did get on the train and go to Lexington now and then...

**Dr. Louise:** Oh, yeah, that was your shopping spree. The train would go down at 6 o'clock and at 10 o'clock and come back at 10 at night. So, usually, you took the 6 o'clock in the morning. Oh, we had a big time. We had breakfast on the train and everything and then you shopped. I always kidded mother that she went to Lexington and spent the day and came back with a tent shovel. That's what she called it. It wasn't the usual. She enjoyed it. Most of the time she bought lots of stuff. I didn't like to shop too well.

**Int:** So, when you were in college, what was that like?

**Dr. Louise:** Well, that's when I found out how smart I was. I went to see Lucille in a play one night and this woman sitting next to me knew I was Cille's sister and she said, "Do you act?" And I said, "No." She said, "Well, you must sing." I said, "No, I can't sing." So she said, "Well, you can't do anything can you?" (Laughter)

Oh, college was fun. Of course, the first year we lived in the dorm and we had two girls in this room and two girls in that room and a bath in between and that's where I got into physical education. See, this girl in the other room was making a talk on 'How to Serve a Tennis Ball' and she was a workin' and a workin' to serve a tennis ball and that's when I found out you could major in that in college! So, that's when I developed my major-- serving a tennis ball.

**Int:** What happened to your early idea about becoming a doctor?

**Dr. Louise:** After I was through with school I threw all my books away-- with school-- I'd had it. That was on the 27th of June. (Laughter) July the 4th I was going to New York to work on my Masters.
Int: Well, what happened in that week?

Dr. Louise: Oh, everybody else was going to New York to go to school-- Lucille was-- she was going to Columbia, and then the Brown girls were going. . . and there were nine of us had an apartment in New York-- on Riverside Drive and 116th. Did you ever hear of McCormick? Commissioner of Corrections? Well, he was the Commissioner of Corrections of New York City and we got his apartment. Well, he wanted to rent it and his wife had gone up to Maine or something. Oh, that was a great experience. He sorta liked me and he was always making talks places and he'd take me along . . . so I heard him talk a lot of times. In fact, he'd bring some prisoners up to our apartment every now and then. He believed in probation and how to educate prisoners to do something. . . not just lock them up.

Int: A couple of girls from Morehead Kentucky and a couple of prisoners sounds like an interesting evening. So, here's a little girl from Morehead in New York City-- how did you do?

Dr. Louise: Well, did alright every place but in school. I did come out with a Masters . . . in physical education. I did alright. Evidently I was very good on picking professors. I signed up for a very interesting course on Russian history and the lecturer was excellent. A lot of people knew him pretty well. Usually you wrote a term paper. One day someone said, "Well, let's not write a term paper." And so, ok, let's not write a term paper. A few days later somebody said, "Let's not have a final examination." He said, "OK, no final examination." So you could just go and listen without the effort of having to stress and strain yourself and to me that was a very fascinating course. Then, you know, I had to do some research in physical education. Found out what hadn't been done-- you'd go through 'fifty-eleven' books and find out it was not there. A lot of that was a waste of time.

Int: While you were in New York, did you miss Morehead, Kentucky? Did you get homesick or know you wanted to go back to Kentucky?

Dr. Louise: No, I was just taking in all I could take in. I don't know how long the summer sessions last but I went for three summers. I took all my sessions in summer school. I taught up here while I was getting my Masters. See, I had one year on my Masters and went back and finished it after I started teaching.

Int: How did you start teaching?
Dr. Louise: Well, they decided that they needed a P.E. teacher, I had a degree and I was asked about the...

Int: They hadn't had one before?

Dr. Louise: Yes, they had one... but they kind of needed help and they knew that I had my degree in that and they asked me if I'd like the job. The president then? I believe it was (Long). It was a very small faculty then. When I started I think Ed Miller and Ellis Johnson... I believe they were there. They had good basketball.

Int: For girls too?

Dr. Louise: No, men. It was just that time they were making all kinds of crazy things. Women's basketball was three courts. You couldn't run from one place to another all over the court. You had three courts. You had certain people in the middle section and certain people on this end and then on that end. I don't know how they ever came up with such a thing. I don't really know why but I guess they didn't want girls to run that much. Run and stop-- like that was hard on their health. They decided-- Naismith-- they had rules and they decided. They decided about girl's sports, didn't want girls to do too much. I think the primary philosophy was that stopping quickly was hard on women.

Int: What did they think bearing a child was if that isn't hard on women!

Dr. Louise: No, it doesn't make sense at all.

Int: Did you live with your parents then? And what did your mother think then? She didn't want you to even play basketball and there you are teaching P.E.

Dr. Louise: Well, she went along with it. Well, I'll tell you, the minute I came back from New York I knew I was going to med school. Yes, in fact, I was hired that first semester and I was also taking a course in physics at that time. I needed a course in physics-- a prerequisite to go to med school. As a matter of fact, when I got ready to go to med school, that professor had cut my grades and gave me an audit for the course. I took the course not enrolled, so to get credit I paid the fee for the semester.

Int: What got you truly serious about medical school?

Dr. Louise: Well, I came back home and thought, 'Here you are' and everybody else was doing something and I wanted to do something too.
Int: But you were teaching at the college.

Dr. Louise: Well, I was already taking physics. It (teaching) was perfectly satisfactory but I just didn't feel like I was doing what I was supposed to do. But, I loved teaching. Ah, yes, just wasn't what I was supposed to do. I thought a very bad thing when I was teaching. I swore that people should not use teaching as a stepping stone to doing something else. Teaching should be done for teaching itself. I've preached that sermon many times... and here I was. For me it wasn't a stepping stone, it was just a deviation, a detour. And I was kind of scared.

Int: Scared of what?

Dr. Louise: Just afraid, to really do it. I dreamed, oh, I dreamed about it... like a big amphitheatre. You know where, like the movies. Oh, I don't know, don't know, I'm just a scared person. Well, scared, maybe the challenge. Well, how ignorant I was there. I never thought about money. I never thought, well, where am I going to get the money or how am I going to get the money. That's how ignorant I was. I just wrote checks and that's what I'd always done.

Int: So, you went to med school. When and where?

Dr. Louise: I went to med school in the Fall of 1943, in Louisville. It was the only one in the state and that was the logical one. At that time the Doctors in Morehead were from Ann Arbor, Cincinnati, and Boston. I talked to Dr. Blair a lot (Don's father). He told me not to go to med school, not to come back to Morehead, and to do a special thing-- don't do general medicine. So, I did everything he told me not to. And he was trying to advise me right and I wouldn't be surprised if he wasn't. He really didn't think that women were the best for medicine. Why did he think that? Because he was a man.

Susie: And he worked real hard. He worked hard. He had done what we did later.

Dr. Louise: Up in the hills and he'd wade in the mud and it was a hard life. He thought women were smart enough but that they weren't strong enough. Especially me, his cousin. I was Dan and Etta's daughter. My mother, Etta, was delicate, little and pretty. Daddy thought she was the prettiest woman there ever was. He said so, oh, he did it all the time. Reason he married her, he'd say that, "She was the prettiest woman that I ever saw."

Int: Could we back up now and get you and Susie caught up? I left Susie at fixing her dolls because she's a nurse. Were you taken to doctors and saw nurses... or...?
Susie: Yep, I was always the nurse. Always. I had whooping cough when I was a child. At that time the public health nurse came to the house and they put a sign on the house and nobody could come in because at that time whooping cough was a fairly dangerous disease. My sister died of it-- oh, she died of pneumonia, which follows that. She was two years old.

Int: That must have scared you...

Susie: You know, no, I felt partially responsible. I was in school and I brought it home to all of them. But I thought that public health nurse was an awfully nice woman. She had a daughter, she was my same age, and I just thought she was the nicest person. That may have been... she came in, she had on a blue and white nurse outfit and she had some kind of cap on. But-- I went to elementary school in a big city-- it was a Catholic School. I graduated from elementary and I went to the Ursuline Academy-- an all girls school. I took part in everything you were supposed to. I went to football games and there was a boys school not too far from there and we would go down there for sports and we played volleyball. I wasn't big on sports, but I liked to jump rope. I really like to jump rope. I never had to worry about money either. I mean, we didn't have the money that Louise's family had, but we were well provided for. My father was in the oil business. My mother never worked outside the home in her life. She was frequently ill. I can remember when my mother died. She didn't even have a social security number.

Int: In the Catholic School, there are so many orders dedicated to nursing, was that where you were influenced?

Susie: No, there was no influence there. Where I went into nursing, it was a different congregation. It was Nazareth and now it's Spaulding-- that's Spaulding in Louisville. They have nursing and that's where I was accepted so that's where I went. I went straight all year round for three years. Nurses training is very rigorous. Then, when I graduated from nursing, I went to Clay County. That's in the mountains-- East Manchester.

Int: Why did you go there? Had you ever been in Eastern Kentucky?

Susie: No. My roommate and I, we went through high school together, and nursing together too. We'd taken our State Boards and we hadn't gotten results on it and you couldn't work any place but you could work for the State Department of Health or in your home hospital. So, we chose to go with the State Department of Health and the hospital in Clay County was run by the State Department of Health. We went there on our own, we could either have not worked or we
could have. Well, there were several things you could do-- visiting nurses-- but we decided we'd like to go.

**Int:** Did you ever waver?

**Susie:** Oh, sure, I quit about a thousand times! I thought, well, I can't do this when I was into chemistry-- what? I said, "There is no way I can learn this!" I mean, science was not my field and I wondered how I got into it because I really liked history and things like that a lot better. But, there's a lot of nursing history too. It didn't take long to find there was a lot of hard work to it-- it was all hard. I had to study hard, it was mental labor.

**Int:** So, you left nursing school very optimistic about being a nurse?

**Susie:** Oh, yes. And I was a good student. I wasn't a straight "A" student, but I studied. I could have studied harder but I had a hard time with the sciences, I really did-- and the math and there's a lot of that.

**Int:** Did you have any specialty in mind?

**Susie:** People back then didn't specialize like they do now and-- the funny thing is that Louise-- well, I met Louise up in Clay County-- and well, I thought there wasn't anything I couldn't do. I was awfully smart at 21. I don't know how I got so smart so quick!

**Int:** So, you and your friend went off to Eastern Kentucky and you had never been there... was that a surprise?

**Susie:** Oh, was it ever! First of all-- we went by bus and then we had to wait in Manchester for a long time until there was this one but that would take you to Oneida-- a small area where we were. Well, we finally got there-- it took us all day to get from Louisville. I can remember, we stopped at Richmond, Kentucky. That was a trip. And then we got on a different line that went to Manchester and after we got to Manchester, we had to wait for this one bus that went to Oneida-- it's about five miles but we thought we'd never get there-- five slow miles. Of course, neither one of us drove. Back then people didn't drive. I didn't get my driver's license until I was 25. But, when we got there, we did have electricity, we didn't have fresh milk, it was powdered milk, and everything we ate like meat, was frozen. We'd have to thaw it out the day before. We ate in the cafeteria of the hospital. The hospital was a maternity hospital only and it had a doctor there who was working. It was a lady doctor from Pennsylvania and she was going to take her Boards, was studying to take her Boards, in OB-GYN and that's how Louise happened to come. The bus driver took us right to the hospital. They knew we were coming-- they knew these two
little new nurses were coming in. They needed help and it was a very small hospital-- 25 beds, or 20-- but it was a small hospital and everyone knew what everyone else was doing. There was a nurses house and then there was a doctor's house right next door and we were the only two nurses there. Then another one from our class came.

Dr. Louise: I can't remember her name (Hacken) -- in anesthesiology.

Susie: There was one doctor and eventually there were four nurses. But when we were first there, there was just us. So, we had a place to live, a nice house, and we went over to the hospital for our meals and they had a well qualified dietician and this is where it all amazed me. See, a truck would go to town and bring back frozen foods, meat, everything was frozen and it just was a way of life I'd never seen before. The people were really nice. There is some coal mining there but lumber and farming were their main means to make a living.

Dr. Louise: I think mud was the main product!

Susie: Mud! Everywhere-- there was! It was such a small town. We only took care of maternity.

Int: Where did everyone else go?

Susie: Oh, they went to Manchester-- five miles down that road. Little kids or whoever got hurt really bad, they went to London.

Int: What would your days be like?

Susie: Well, we worked shifts and with four of us it was pretty good. We alternated shifts of eight hours. Of course, we were in charge and we had some aids who helped us, and, just being out of school we didn't know a great deal of OB. That's one reason we went up there and you learned, quick, by observation.

Int: And were you scared?

Susie: Yes, I was scared. Yeah, I just sat there all the time and, you know, I'd read as labor went along and well. I sat there with them and I felt like I was comforting and we didn't have that many in labor at one time. It wasn't like a big hospital. And then you'd have the babies to take care of. But, you learned to depend on yourself-- a lot! Because, in that sort of thing, nature does most of it.

Int: How many babies do you think you've seen born?

Susie: Oh, a lot-- thousands. Louise has delivered 8,000 and I've been there for 7,900. (Laughter)
Int: What year did you get to Clay County?

Susie: The end of 1947.

Int: And that's where you two met? What was the name of the hospital?

Susie: Oneida Maternity Hospital.

Int: So, Dr. Louise, how did you get to this little hospital?

Dr. Louise: I don't know how I heard about it. I think somebody told me about it. I didn't know - oh, I was scared to death too. I drove up there and I saw that little hospital and the lady -- the doctor there -- she seemed so nice and she helped me get on my feet so I wouldn't be afraid in OB and she was pretty good in gynecology, so she was going to teach me how to use equipment and so forth. Yes, I graduated in '46 and I'd done my internship. (It was my first job) Yes, I was petrified too, but I had this security that she was going to help me, she was gonna make me feel free to do this ... her name was Clark. She was from Pennsylvania.

Int: How old was she at that time?

Susie: Oh, I thought she was pretty old -- probably 40. She was there for the same reason we did -- she wanted to get more experience.

Dr. Louise: I think I came there through the Public Health Department -- to get some more training ...

Susie: Because you realized that was going to be one of the things you were going to have to do.

Dr. Louise: You could tell. I'd been with Everett, my cousin you know, and it seemed like, gosh, every night at 3 o'clock you had to go out and have a baby. So, you felt like -- you've got to be sure you know what's going on. I knew that eventually I would stay in Morehead. And that's the kind of thing I thought I'd be doing here. Well, I went there and talked with her. I didn't know whether I liked her or not, just scared to death but I felt it was a good source. So, I went to work almost immediately, because, I mean, she wanted to study for her Boards. But, actually what she wanted was to get off ... so actually I was to cover while she went. It turned out -- well, that gave me a lot of responsibility quick.

Int: Susie, how long had you been there when Dr. Louise came?

Susie: Oh, about 3 months. We were settled in pretty good.
Int: Do you remember the first time you saw each other?

Susie: Kind of, I remember. I knew there was a new doctor coming-- and then when she came we said, "Gosh, she's pretty nice." My first impression? Well, Dr. Clark was a bigger woman, taller than I am, and Louise was so little.

Dr. Louise: I was 5' 2".

Susie: She was never that tall! She came over to the nurses, in fact, she spent more time there than in the house next door.

Dr. Louise: Well, I just rattled around over there by myself. And, oh, I went to work immediately.

Susie: Well, I'll tell you what would happen. You know, you didn't call for the doctor until it was time for the baby or getting close to time. We also had clinics in the surrounding areas for prenatal care and, I guess, birth control...

Dr. Louise: And we went to Red Bird and we went to Manchester and other places. And they had midwives out there too.

Susie: Yes, but not trained midwives. Most of them we saw at the clinic... But that was Mary Breckinridge and her nurses on horseback. But they were not too far from there and they ran a clinic at Redbird.

Dr. Louise: They ran that? Well, what were we doing there?

Susie: Now, she said that you said you couldn't have done this without Susie--she had the sense and I say you don't really mean that.

Int: Did you find you could work together with ease right away? Or, how did it develop that you could work together so well?

Susie: I don't know what actually did-- well, we all worked well together up there. I thought we did. We all did real well. I couldn't see that we worked better together than anyone else. Louise was actually trying to get anybody that would come to Morehead. I was the only one that would come to Morehead, and I decided to stay a year here. I didn't care what happened.

Dr. Louise: I had to have somebody that was willing to stay in a place like that.

Int: How long were you both in Clay County?

Susie: I was there for six months and Louise was there for three months.

Int: Did you learn a lot?
Int: I don't really want to wear you out today, but could we just get you to Morehead today-- how did that come about?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I'd already decided that's where I was going to start-- in January. I was going to be a GP (General Practitioner). Well, my Daddy had a building that I could use-- and it was upstairs over the pool room. That building is still there. Upstairs is not anything now-- downstairs is a fraternity house and next to it is a barber shop and on the opposite side is a restaurant. The new cabinet shop-- Johnny's barbershop-- it's straight across from Western Auto.

Int: So, you knew you were coming back to Morehead. Did you have to buy a lot of equipment to get started?

Susie: We picked it out up there (Clay County)-- we got an X-Ray machine and...

Dr. Louise: ... and ammonium chloride tablets....

Susie: And, oh yes, ammonium chloride-- which is a diuretic. Why we got enough to last 100 years. We didn't know any better. Used to be used as a diuretic. It's not used any more I don't believe. This was a pill you used to give it to people with heart failure. Now you give them things like Lasix. No, we didn't have catalogs but the drug people came and talked to you. In those three months we did it all. I guess by Christmas time I knew I was coming. Well, I'd been through Morehead on my way to Charleston once. That was it. And I knew that there was a school here and I was going to take classes.

Int: To up your degree?

Susie: Oh, no. I was going to take art appreciation, things like that.

Dr. Louise: She was very good in art. Did a lot of drawing and things of that sort.

Susie: Well, I wasn't sure I would fit in this situation, but it was a LOT better than Oneida. Let me tell you! They had a school there in Oneida and I went to high school basketball games. That was about it. Dances and things. That was our entertainment. Better than Clay County, let me tell you. Actually, I came to Morehead before Louise did. Louise was in New York when I got here. And this friend of hers from China was here. They'd gone to school together and she was going back to China. Anyway, Louise was up there in New York. Then, so, Louise's mother and I started to get the office ready. We painted. Oh, yes, when I first came there was snow. There was snow everywhere and I got off the train and Jane and Boone met me. Louise's brother and his wife and I went up to their house. And Jane had been on a sleigh ride the night
before and their house was kind of a mess and there was ketchup on the fireplace and I thought, 'Oh, my Lord, what have I gotten into?' But, she had a good meal and her house—well, she hadn't cleaned up around the fireplace yet. I guess it was about a week before Louise got back from New York. The first day when Granny and I went down there to clean, oh, we cleaned and cleaned and scrubbed and painted. Granny was a good scrubber! And Louise and I stayed at Louise's mother's house at first and we went to that office early, I remember. And I thought we never would have a next meal (lunch)! Finally, at about three or four o'clock in the afternoon Louise's sister Patty, who was home from somewhere, brought us some tomato soup.

Dr. Louise: Susie couldn't get over not having three meals a day.

Susie: Yeah, where I came from you ate three meals a day and everybody sat down at a table!

Dr. Louise: Nothing was like that at our house.

Int: This is that big white house on Wilson Street? That must be a big house.

Dr. Louise: There was the front room, and the main room, and my room, the blue room and the front room and the downstairs nursery.

Susie: And then, when we started that practice, it didn't take long until we were real busy. The first week or two we didn't do much but every day it would get more.

Int: Only a week or two? I've heard some doctors say it can be six months or a year.

Susie: But, we got there every day, every day, and we were there until closing time, even when we weren't doing anything. We worked everyday, six days with two afternoons off. And then for a while we had night office hours, but that didn't work out. People didn't come, so, we quit that.

Int: Did you have someone to work in your office?

Susie: In the very beginning we didn't. Jane did it for a while and then Merle, her sister-in-law.

Int: Do you remember your first patient?

Susie: Oh, it was Mildred--Bradley. First one in the door. She and her husband ran a florist's shop. Neither one of us knew her but Louise knew her husband, but she was from California and she thought she was pregnant...and she was! So, she was our first patient.

Int: Let me ask you two things first. One is, somebody told me to ask you about taking a horse upstairs.

Dr. Louise: Oh, we were kids... Sydney Evans, this girl I played with most of the time, they had a pony. And that pony, oh, it had a heck of a life. We did everything to that pony. The Evans' had the best house in town-- it's terrible, they tore it down and built that bank.

Susie: That's recently, within the last ten years.

Dr. Louise: Oh, it had all inlaid floors. Had gorgeous big mantels. And we took that pony upstairs, all the way to the third floor of that house and we tried to make it stick its head out the window up there and that thing wouldn't do it. Well, we took it back down to the second floor and tried to get it in the bathtub and it wouldn't do that either. We took that little pony about every place-- there were five of us and we rode it-- at the same time. It was just about that long.

Int: Also, would you mind if I talked to other people about you?

Dr. Louise: Oh, you can talk to anybody. It might be better than talking to me.

Int: Why?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I don't tell things very well.

Int: I was wondering if today we could talk about the hospital. How it started, where the idea came from-- all of that. The hospital just sent out a calendar and you are not mentioned. They are using words like 'vision, dream, scheme, fairy tale.' They call the building of that hospital, 'like a fairy tale.'

Dr. Louise: Well, people see things in different ways. You wanna know how the hospital started-- that's what you want to know?

Int: And where. You know, we get impossible ideas or how we'd like places to have things. How does it start?

Dr. Louise: I don't know where it started really. I mean, as you worked you knew you were not efficient. You couldn't do what you wanted to do. And you couldn't take just your hands and go about practicing medicine and doing much good and, I mean, that's just the way life was at that time. We talked a lot. Susie and I talked an awful lot about medicine and about what we wanted to do. You know, we ended up-- well, for six or seven years people would yell up at us in the
middle of the night to get up and go some place. See, people knew where our bedrooms were and they'd yell upstairs for us to come.

**Susie:** Throw rocks at the windows!

**Dr. Louise:** Oh, they came once and yelled up at us for a baby to be delivered and I went back to sleep and Susie came and whispered to me "Get up Louise, we've got to go!" And I rolled over and said, "Oh no we don't! They called just now and said they were at the Midland Trail Garage on their way to Lexington!" (laughter) But I dreamed that. I mean, you couldn't just live like that.

**Int:** You mean, you are on the second floor (at her parents home on North Wilson) and they stood out on the street and yelled?

**Dr. Louise:** They drove up the driveway and knew where our windows were.

**Susie:** And that first part-- she dreamed that.

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, Susie made me get up and go! They yelled a lot of times. Then, many people didn't have phones.

**Susie:** People usually came to the door and knocked, hard, or called on the telephone.

**Dr. Louise:** But-- how the hospital got started. The notion for a hospital. I'd say there was a lot of talk around here and people asked me about maybe starting a hospital. Well, Susie and I talked it over and we didn't think there was any way we could do that. You know, they didn't know exactly what they were talking about because there is more to it. And then there was a fella that came through here from the State Department of Health and I can't... can't remember his name.

**Susie:** C. C. Keller.

**Dr. Louise:** And he came down to the office one day. Oh, he'd made a call someplace here but he came to our office. Then we had our office where we are now and we had babies there and so forth. And he said, "Well, why don't you start a hospital?" And we gave him our reason-- we really thought was true-- we didn't want one unless it was a good one. We'd seen a lot of them. And we'd seen hospitals where they did everything whether they needed it or not. So, we didn't want that. That's what I told him and he knew the kind of hospital I was talking about. He'd seen 'em too.

He said, "Well, if you want one and you want to work hard enough, you can get it." So, I was stubborn and that aggravated me. Oh, I guess we talked every night for a month, didn't we?
About... can you do that? Can you have a good one, and if you can... how can you? So, we went over and around and--you had to have a facility, of course. You had to have people to run it. You had to have physicians and you had to have specialty groups and you had to have the community who wanted it. And you had to have the money. So, we couldn't do anything but find out if the community wanted it and if we could get some money. Out of that we decided what was our first issue--so, any day we closed the office in daylight, we'd just go house to house or business to business.

Susie: And we went to people who had money.

Int: Did you start out with a list?

Dr. Louise: No, just what was in our head.

Susie: See, it used to be you knew everybody in town and you knew everybody at the University.

Dr. Louise: I think we started in August of 1960.

Susie: At the office we started in 1957, but I think we started this project, the door-knocking, in the summer.

Dr. Louise: We just did that from August until October. Wasn't it? Somewhere about like that and we, we did pretty good. We didn't ask people to give us money, no. We told 'em what we wanted to do and would they (give us money). And I think we had pledges of about $87,000.

Susie: Oh, we had an awful lot of people who said they would give.

Dr. Louise: Yes, but you didn't write anything down.

Int: Was the interest in building a hospital 100%?

Dr. Louise: No, but the interest was high.

Susie: It was high and the people we asked mostly were interested because that's who we went to--people we felt would care the most, and wanted to give. We thought money was the big part of it then and it still is, but it's not near as big a part as all the rest of it.

Int: You said you wanted a 'good' hospital (as opposed to a bad one). What was bad about the ones that you wanted to avoid?

Dr. Louise: We didn't want surgery that didn't need to be done. I'd seen that.

Int: You mean surgery just to make money, or careless, sloppy surgery?
Dr. Louise: Well, you can just make your own judgment. We felt that they were just doing it to satisfy people, and also to make money. You know, a lot of people 'like' to be cut on. I really believe that. You see, that's what we mean by unnecessary surgery.

Susie: And, poor medicine.

Dr. Louise: We wanted people who were qualified and who knew what they were doing. And, just a practitioner CAN'T do everything! They just are not qualified to do everything. You can't read your own x-rays and cut out your specimen, or do that whole job. We tried it and some of it didn't work that good. Oh, we tried doing some GI x-rays and kidney x-rays...

Susie: And by the time you did it all-- and I mean it's a big procedure-- you know, giving them barium and all and then send them off to be read-- well, it's more trouble than it's worth. It's much easier to have the patient go to Lexington and get it done and get a report in writing. And we were concerned about a patient and we just weren't very good at that procedure.

Int: Were people expecting you to-- well, that a doctor knows everything?

Dr. Louise: No, they didn't-- but you did-- for yourself I guess more so. I just hated-- well, you knew there was more that you could do to make that diagnosis and you didn't feel that you could slip it over.

Int: Had you seen people who did that kind of work and that's why you thought it was a bad hospital?

Dr. Louise: Well, you hate to say that people were bad...

Susie: They probably didn't mean to be. But there are, and there were...

Dr. Louise: Well, they weren't trained.

Susie: And there weren't as many laws then. Oh, (laughing) there wasn't so much government interference then. You know, you could operate your own little hospital. And, they did a lot of good but they were not very good hospitals in some cases. I can't mention where they were, and never in Morehead.

Int: Now there is an emergency ward here. What would have been the equivalent then of going to an emergency ward? If you got cut or broke your leg, or had a serious accident... would you go to Lexington?

Dr. Louise: Oh, many times we'd fix it. We'd fix broken arms.
Int: So, first you went out to see if the community wanted a hospital.

Dr. Louise: Yes, and at the time they seemed to be interested. And then when they were interested you had to see-- well, what you had to do next. And then you wanted somebody to run it. We had friends in most of the churches. Susie was Catholic and I was Christian (Christian Church on Main Street). Some of the people we'd asked were Methodists and Baptists and they ran hospitals so we asked them what to do and everybody said they didn't have any money-- with the exception of the Catholic Church. And they didn't exactly say that they had a lot of money, but they said that they thought they could help some.

Susie: They said they'd look into it.

Dr. Louise: Anyhow, it wasn't very long until they came and said they WERE interested.

Int: But Susie, you were saying how very small the Catholic population here was.

Susie: It was tiny. Like a dozen. I mean, well, there were a few students too, from the University, but they weren't permanent as far as you could count them. Mass was-- well, there was a garage right where the church is now. There was a house there and it had a garage and mass was there. A priest came over from Maysville on Sundays.

Int: So, even though there were only a dozen or so Catholics here, it was the Catholic Church that was interested. Interested in running it or in supporting it?

Susie: Running it was what we were looking for then.

Dr. Louise: Administration. They had-- the Sisters of Notre Dame-- had this hospital in Lynch- in a coal mining area. They had closed that down; or, they were in the process of closing it down. And they had a few nurses, not very many, and I think it was in a transition period for them. So they seemed to be-- Monsignor Towell was the leader really. He was in charge of health at that phase-- at the community. And he was friendly with the Sisters of Notre Dame. So, he came to the office after, oh, who was the priest up there then? Well, anyway, he's the one who sent Monsignor Towell to us. And of all the things-- well, I think I tell this right but I could get something a little bit crooked because-- Susie, you might have to correct me someplace along the line. So, he came by one morning about 10 o'clock on his way to Frankfort. And, we had had two sets of twins and a singleton (one baby) that night and we had just had another one and someone in the labor room. So, we had babies lined up. We kept
them there (in the office on Main Street) usually about five or six hours, just until they woke up. So, there were five babies all lined up. And he came in (laughing) and kind of went pale. He thought, surely we must need a hospital.

Susie: It was impressive, all those babies lined up and we didn’t know he was coming.

Dr. Louise: No, we didn’t know he was coming that day. Well, we never did have that many (at one time) before.

Susie: No, not all at one time.

Dr. Louise: But he just walked right in in the middle of it. So, he was very much interested in helping us. I think he was going to do something about the Hill-Burton (Government Grants) that day.

Int: Do you recall what he said when he came in?

Dr. Louise: Just something like that— it looks like you need a hospital.

Int: Did you have little beds or bassinets for these babies?

Susie: Oh no, we just had one bassinet. We just lined them up along the couch. We had five babies on that couch. The mothers were wanting to rest and we had them there across the hall.

Dr. Louise: Oh, we had one on the x-ray table!

Susie: Yes, on the x-ray table, a hard table. One was in the treatment room.

Dr. Louise: And two of ’em were in beds (the mothers).

Int: And were there other people in the office, coming in for anything else?

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes, the office was just going on. The babies were (on the couch) in the back. Nobody saw them.

Int: Did you always keep them a short time?

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes, unless there was bleeding or something. About just like they do now. So, he saw all this and said, “You need a hospital...” and he told us to write to him in a letter about what we did every day. I found that letter— I think I can find it again. So, I wrote down everything we did in a day and sent it off to him.

Monsignor Chas. A. Towell
St. Agnes Church
Covington, Kentucky

Dear Monsignor:

Enclosed you will find an itemized account of two days' office procedure as of October 3rd and 4th, 1960, along with a brief description of Morehead and surrounding community in relationship to our need for hospital facilities.

We did not do a complete week of office procedure because of lack of time, and we also decided it would take a considerable amount of your valuable time to read it. These two days, however, are quite typical of most every day.

We wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you for your excellent cooperation and interest in securing Sisters for the hospital. We understand that the Notre Dame order is "tops."

We hope that the enclosed material is in accordance with your request. If you should need additional information, please contact me and we will be glad to furnish it.

Respectfully,

C. Louise Caudill, M.D.

List for Monday, October 3.

3 a.m. Patient admitted in labor.

7:30 Breakfast.
9 a.m. Started seeing patients in the office.

1. Routine prenatal checkup.
2. 42 year old woman-- post lung resection-- cardiac decomp.
3. 15 year old girl-- too fat.
4. 55 year old woman-- hypertension.
5. 6 week old infant with pneumonia.
6. 30 year old man with gastritus and emotional problems.
7. 75 year old woman with infected finger.
8. 40 year old woman-- vaginitis.
9. 45 year old woman-- complete physical.
10. 38 year old man-- upper respiratory infection.
11. 36 year old woman-- vaginitis.
12. 6 year old well baby checkup.
13. 60 year old woman-- routine exam.
14. 4 year old child-- upper respiratory infection.
15. 34 year old man-- lacerations on 3 fingers-- suturing.
16. 30 year old woman-- routine pelvic and cauterization.
17. Delivered (3 a.m.) patient of a pretty little girl.
18. 38 year old man-- upper respiratory infection.
19. 36 year old woman-- vaginitis.
20. 6 year old well baby checkup.
21. 60 year old woman-- routine exam.
22. 4 year old child-- upper respiratory infection.
23. 34 year old man-- lacerations on 3 fingers-- suturing.
24. 30 year old woman-- routine pelvic and cauterization.

2 p.m. Delivered (9 a.m.) a handsome crying boy.
17. 70 year old lady-- hypertension.
18. 37 year old man-- prostitus.
19. 18 year old college student-- broken finger.
20. 19 year old boy, college student-- right knee injured, football.
   Fluid aspirated. T.B.A. injected.
21. 4 week old baby-- feeding problems.
22. 6 month old baby-- diarrhea and vomiting.
23. 16 year old girl-- upper respiratory infection.
24. 3 year old boy-- upper respiratory infection.
25. 75 year old woman-- cystitus.
26. 26 year old woman-- prenatal checkup.
27. Routine prenatal.
28. 60 year old woman-- diabetes.
29. 55 year old woman-- car wreck 4 days ago, sutures removed.
30. 28 year old man-- metal burn on foot.
31. 59 year old man-- fear cancer of lung.
32. 11 year old boy-- fight at school, chin laceration, rock.
33. 17 year old girl-- upper respiratory infection.
34. 20 year old girl, college student-- lymph nodes, bad tooth.
35. 13 year old boy-- tonsilitis.
36. 19 year old girl-- pregnant, mass in breast. Referred to Lexington-- sutures removed.

Also:
15 immunizations, 3 allergy shots, 4 dressings changed, 1 house call. Finished at office at 7:55 and then made house calls.

We wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you for your excellent cooperation and interest in securing Sisters for the hospital.

Respectfully,
C. Louise Caudill

Dr. Louise: Well, so, then we had somebody to run it but we didn't have anything for them to run! So, we had to find some doctors. Oh, lord, I had no more idea than a jack rabbit and Susie couldn't help me a bit. So it happened-- well, I used to go over to Lexington, to a Lexington clinic program. They had some pretty good medical programs, like continuing education. So, I went down there and there I was sitting right next to Dr. Segnitz. Dr. Richard Segnitz was a pediatric surgeon in Lexington. Think he was supposed to be the only one in the state. He was really just the kindest thing you ever knew. And I talked to him all the time and so I told him what we were trying to do. I told him we sorta needed some one to find doctors for us and get the
medicine lined up. And we talked and when the meeting was over he started over across the road there as fast as he could go, and I started out after him as fast as I could go, and told him I'd like to talk with him some more.

I said we needed somebody really right away. He said, "Well, I might be able to find you somebody." I said, "That would be great, who would that be?"

And he said, "Well, maybe I would. Maybe I'd be interested!" He said, "I know everybody over at the University (of Kentucky)."

See, the University was just starting a medical school. He knew all the new doctors that were coming in. He worked with them. So, he became my buddy from then on. He'd come to Morehead. Brought his children along and they went fishing one time. Anytime they'd go through they'd stop. And we went down there (to Lexington) and talked with him and we knew almost all the new doctors down there then. The main one, the Dean of the Med School was Dr. Bill Willard. He was a good 'un. He wanted to do, at the University, what we wanted to do. Modern medicine, you know, continuing care and having people who knew from the base of medicine all the way up-- tertiary care. And he wanted, at the University, to have the students learn this common primary type care of medicine as well as the tertiary care. So, his philosophy was to send students out to Morehead, or out to someplace so they could see what actually went on... when you didn't have all the equipment and so on. I mean, it was great reasoning I thought, on his part. At least as far as we were concerned.

Int: And he was the Dean of the UK Medical School?

Dr. Louise: And he became president of the Appalachian Regional Hospital Association. He's done a whole lot. He just resigned I think last year. He wrote grants and, actually, ... and Bob Johnson had come up here real often and helped us get everything started and to get doctors and agreed that they would help to pick doctors. And they would go over and work on the staff at the University for say, a day, a week or so, and do surgical rounds or cardiology rounds. So, you had a kind of specialized medicine. One thing that happens, which to me is always the thing that makes you go down hill, as soon as you went back to the country to practice you lost contact. So, you had to have some way of having continuing education. You can go out and take a course or something like that-- but you do need something to keep you wound up all the time. So, they would make that connection. They would let you in down there and you could get in on whatever was going on.
And Dr. Pellegrino, when he came over. He was very much interested in that. He’s the one who tried to help us get a little more of the attitude of Hunterton. You don’t know what that is... It’s sort of the—well, a hospital out in the country that has tried to do everything. They tried to do all the specialties. Everything. And that was a part of the hospital. Outside was the family practitioner. Nobody could get in that hospital except through the family practitioner to the specialist.

**Int:** The idea of a cooperative?

**Dr. Louise:** Well, the idea being to spread medicine broader. If you needed a specialist, you’d get a specialist. You didn’t waste the specialists’ time. Now, we were trying to do something similar.

**Susie:** Hunterton is in Flemington, New Jersey.

**Dr. Louise:** I think it’s named after a fella, who was that real rich fella... anyway, Sister Mary Edna, Dr. Stegnitz, and Susie and I went up there. So, it was set up to facilitate—to use your manpower where manpower was needed.

**Susie:** People also stayed in the hospital and the doctor’s office was right there. That is the surgeon and the radiologist, etc.

**Int:** How did you hear about this hospital?

**Dr. Louise:** Dr. Pellegrino. He was from the University and he was the head of medicine.

**Susie:** He started that out there, that concept. And we liked the idea. But, that’s what we started but...

**Int:** You mean you couldn’t make it work?

**Dr. Louise:** No, you see, they had another little rule or two. You see, there, all the specialists made the same amount of money.

**Int:** Maybe a little too socialist? This is the salary and this is all you can earn.

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, and that’s what everybody felt—oh, that’s socialist. But there’s lotsa ways that doesn’t work. Because we heard it up there so we weren’t ‘plumb pushed’ by the salary angle. And it all had to be the same. Well, they had an ophthalmologist up there that they couldn’t keep at work. He was always playing golf someplace or something like that. See, I mean, it wasn’t a perfect set up. And ours, we figured that if we deviated...
Susie: Actually, the surgeons did make more in the beginning.

Dr. Louise: Well, in the first year they did but before the year was out they changed. See, they were hired...

Susie: They were guaranteed salaries.

Dr. Louise: See, the people, we formed a group called the Northeastern Kentucky Hospital Foundation. And all we did was to pick out people in town that were really interested in trying to get something going-- like Adron Doran-- he was a big guy. The thing that's wrong right now is that we don't have the newspaper. But we had (then) "Snooks" Crutcher, and he was the editor of the newspaper. W.C. Crutcher, he was the owner and the editor.

Susie: He was fantastic.

Dr. Louise: But I mean (laughing) if he wanted something done, he'd put it all over the paper. You didn't have any problem spreading the news. And then Dr. Doran told the teachers up at the University that they had better want a hospital here too and he got a little extra help I think. And he (Doran) was on the Board, and Snooks was on the Board, and there was one place that was very important in Morehead and that was the Eagle's Nest. You ever heard of the Eagle's nest?

Susie: It was a restaurant.

Dr. Louise: It's not there any more. It was a restaurant and it was pretty well known in its time. If anybody went through Morehead, that was the place you stopped. And they had the best biscuits and the best pies and the best country ham. It was really good. And Chin Clayton ran that. And everybody knew Chin and he knew everybody, so he was on the Board.

Susie: It used to be down on West Main Street-- about where Arby's is now.

Dr. Louise: It was right across from the Citizen's Bank. Right, it was sort of the town hub; all the problems of the town were solved there. Come 10 o'clock, "the group" would meet.

Susie: For coffee and pie. The men in the morning and the women went in the afternoon.

Dr. Louise: (Laughing) About 4 o'clock. Lige was on that Board too. Lige Hogg, he was our next door neighbor for a long time. He was a lawyer and a judge and Commonwealth Attorney. He was all those things at one time. This is the group that actually did the working part. Now, my Uncle Cornelius was a great influence in the town. He was the President of People's Bank and he wanted the hospital very much. He was-- it always says that he was president of the foundation. But he was president of the finance committee, actually. And we had the President
of the other bank, Glenn Layne, and Alfie Hutchinson. Oh, they all worked and they had meetings, I think, at least two or three times a week. Then we got to the place where we didn't have to go to those.

**Int:** You didn't have to call the meetings, or...

**Dr. Louise:** When they got to the finance part, you see, they tried-- they had to get someone to make the drive. We had to get, well, all we figured what we could get, so we had somebody to come and get it.

**Int:** You said you thought you had pledged $87,000.

**Dr. Louise:** I really still have those books. I've got expense books for the first year.

**Int:** Did you have an estimate on land and construction, or did you just get the money first?

**Dr. Louise:** Actually, the Sisters, they went ahead and planned the building. We bought the land.

**Susie:** Several people offered land. Because we had the Hill Burton money we had to take land in town and we had to buy it. That is the government, they would double your money. Everybody was involved in that.

**Dr. Louise:** I think that's run out now, but you had certain rules you had to go by when you used the Hill Burton money, but I think that's over now. You know, it just lasted so many years. You had to plan to expand so it really turned out that the land you wanted to buy turned out to be sort of expensive. Now, you know those two houses that are sort of up on the hill and one of them has Santy Claus on it-- my Uncle Dave would have given us all of that land for nothing. And then on up the road, just before you turn off for here-- where all those pine trees were? Well, where that church is, that's part of the land. Hill Burton said, if people don't have transportation, they can't get out there. People had cars even then.

**Susie:** But there was no public transportation.

**Dr. Louise:** But this place worked out alright.

**Int:** Was there anything else? Did they have to take anything out?

**Susie:** There was a house there but that's all.

**Int:** So, how long did it take to get the money?

**Dr. Louise:** Oh, we got everything going at the same time. The whole thing was completed in three years.
Int: Were there ever any cliffhanger moments—like maybe this is not going to happen? Or, was it pretty smooth?

Dr. Louise: I think it was pretty smooth. Well, there were about a million things that went wrong. I remember, well, we built this place where the doctors’ offices were in the hospital, and they wouldn’t let us do it. Oh, I tell you.

Susie: Oh, they threatened Louise— to disbar— I mean, cut her off of the KMA (Kentucky Medical Association).

Int: Could you tell that again. I don’t understand.

Susie: The doctors’ offices in the hospital. They said it was Socialistic. Oh, it was terrible, the accusations they made against her.

Dr. Louise: Oh, (laughing) I’ve got two letters I still have.

Int: You mean, doctors were supposed to have their offices OUTSIDE the hospital? If so, why?

Dr. Louise: Well, I think their philosophy was that they shouldn’t be so close that they could be a part of the hospital. The doctor had to be a separate entity and the hospital had to be another entity. You came to the hospital to work, you weren’t a part of the group.

Susie: That was really a no-no then.

Dr. Louise: One of my very good friends came down here one day and sat about where you are now and he just tore me up one side and down the other (laughing).

Int: But for what?

Susie: Maybe free enterprise. Maybe that was it, I don’t know.

Dr. Louise: Well, sometimes I get a little . . . toward them, I don’t know. Like one time somebody was here and he wanted to be a surgeon. And I told him what I said and he said he would do that, but he couldn’t do that because nobody would go with him. And I mean, I’ve always felt we had to get what we need here and it wasn’t, maybe, just exactly fair in the other direction. But we’d get what the community needed, that was our philosophy. If somebody came in and wanted to do their own thing, didn’t want to do it our way . . .

Susie: They were not welcome. They could come but it was pointed out pretty plain, they were not welcome.

Dr. Louise: You see, we wanted to be sure they were good and that’s why we worked with the University of Kentucky, and when they came they were qualified to teach at the University; to be
approved there. And if somebody just came from Podunk and we didn't know 'em... we wanted 'top dog' people even though this was a small town, and I still believe this. I believe there's a lot of people that would prefer to live in this kind of an area than in the city and even if they are smart and rich, they still might like it here.

**Susie:** And, you know, I believe Hunter Black's a good example. He was brave to come here and he came almost in the beginning.

**Int:** What do you mean brave?

**Susie:** Let's see, '61? he came here before Dick (Carpenter). You know, they always think that Dick came first, but he didn't come first.

**Dr. Louise:** Well, Carpenter came but then he left. He had to go into the service.

**Susie:** And he left and was gone for about three years.

**Dr. Louise:** They came through the University. I'd say they taught, they had to be part of the staff.

**Susie:** They were all specialized at the University. And they were welcome to teach there and all of them did.

**Dr. Louise:** Not Victor (Dr. David Victor), but he came down one or two days a week. When we started out, well, Dr. Proudfoot. Let's see, Herb Hudnut was our first medicine man and he was head of medicine and he came here with the idea of being the educational supervisor-- so to speak. And then, Dr. Proudfoot was practicing over at Pikeville and he came over for about a month, just on Saturdays, as a surgeon and then after that he became a part of the staff.

**Int:** Did you ask him to stay or did he want to stay?

**Dr. Louise:** Oh, he worked with a union or, I don't know what it is, in the mining business. I continued my practice on Main Street. Now we had in town Dr. Blair and Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Jerrett and... actually we owned it, that is, if we wanted to we could put a patient in. And we had a radiologist. I believe Dr. Smith was our first radiologist and he'd come in-- he didn't live here I don't believe.

**Int:** So, no doctors' offices in the hospital?

**Dr. Louise:** Actually, I couldn't see-- I talked to Dr. Willard-- and I couldn't see what was wrong with that. And I didn't do a good job. I didn't do that-- explain that, well, I thought that any fool could see that it was a good plan.
Int: So you thought they should see that too?

Dr. Louise: Yes, but they didn't like that. And that's when I got that letter. Anyhow, we just moved 'em out and they got a little house next door and that was the end of that. That just became a part of the hospital.

Int: Is that how the Morehead Clinic got started?

Dr. Louise: That was the beginning. That was a clinic. Then it was a clinic that wanted to divide itself so it divided into two clinics.

Int: That sounds like another chapter. So, in the meantime the hospital was in the hands of the Sisters and you were...?

Dr. Louise: Outside. Oh, I've been on the Board ever since and I'm still on the Board.

Int: When they started building the hospital-- well, I've been curious about this ever since I've been here. This is such a Protestant area and the hospital is Catholic and run by Sisters. Was there any noise about that?

Susie: Do you mean did people object? There was a lot less objection than you'd think.

Dr. Louise: It was really surprising. We had two churches that weren't really for us.

Susie: In fact, one minister in the beginning was an opponent. He changed a lot. He changed before the hospital was completed. And that was about John Kennedy's time and I remember he wrote a letter to the editor about Kennedy and the hospital. He was one of the folks, but he came around just fine.

Dr. Louise: An important member of each of those churches was in the hospital within the first week. I don't know exactly when but it was very shortly after. As I say, they didn't think, they didn't reason-- it was just luck, chance, being at the right place at the right time. Those are things that count.

Susie: We had a great advantage in that it was the right time, for the hospital. And the University was expanding and we got so much help.

Dr. Louise: And the University up here could see the need of it. You see, they were trying to grow too. You couldn't get good teachers if you couldn't get good health facilities.

Int: You mean Dr. Doran?

Dr. Louise: Well, UK, but Dr. Doran too, and we had it both ways.
Int: Did you think of that when you would sit up nights discussing your plans?

Dr. Louise: No, we just didn't know how we were going to get doctors-- I tell you, it was just plain luck that this man happened to sit down by me.

Int: How did you try to attract doctors to Morehead itself? What if they said they didn't want to live in a little town?

Susie: Well, we tried to point out the attractive points and the University and the things kids can do here. At that time an awful lot of young children came to the University because of Breckinridge. Of course, Breck is no more. (Breckinridge Training School).

Dr. Louise: But that was a selling point.

Int: In James McConkey's book, he said that he thought you might have built this house like this so that doctors coming here would think they could have a house like this.

Dr. Louise: Well, we had to entertain them, and we didn't want them to feel like they were going into a log cabin.

Susie: You just wouldn't believe the wining and dining-- oh!!

Dr. Louise: Yes, I can remember hypertension in that room over there-- wining all over the place. But we tried to show them that you can do whatever you want to do.

Susie: I mean we did all of that-- we, meaning me!

Dr. Louise: She did!! We'd have 25 people and more here for dinner at one time.

Susie: Oh, more than that. I mean we had a place here and a place there and anyplace there was a chair-- and we'd bring more in. I do not know how we did it. This is after working all day-- oh, yes. We do not know how WE DID ALL that.

Dr. Louise: We didn't have time to shop even.

Int: So, did it work?

Dr. Louise: We think we got a good bunch.

Susie: And we got to know them a little bit. Some of them really didn't want it. But it worked and that was how we did it. Other people entertained too. I remember Jane had people a few times and Norma (Hogg) did.

Int: So, you wanted them to know that Morehead could be a good
experience.

Dr. Louise: And that they could talk (the people) and that they had read a few things.

Int: When they finally opened the hospital, in 1963, I read somewhere that the first premature birth in the hospital was in the first year. Were you involved in that?

Susie: Yes, we were, I think-- I don't know if you delivered it or Billie Jo (Dr. Billie Jo Caudill) did. But I know that we took care of it a lot. Billie Jo was in the office at that time. Yes, she was involved.

Int: So, as soon as it opened, you did all your deliveries there. Was that a good feeling?

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes. Oh, we thought we were in hog heaven!

Susie: Why, you could stay home after that. Didn’t have to wait for that baby and stay all night.

Dr. Louise: We lived in that office then.

Susie: But they had a bell and they could ring, but you still had to check every so often.

Int: In what year had you built that office?

Susie: In 1957. (People on the stairs were from '48 to '57) Nine years.

Dr. Louise: That's many a year.

Int: When they opened the hospital and they named it St. Claire-- how did that come about?

Dr. Louise: Well, the Sisters named it. Oh, it was down at the office, and I think Sister Joelle.

Susie: Well, some of them-- I think Dr. Segnitz wanted to call it the Morehead hospital-- oh, Morehead Medical Center-- because everything was medical center then, as it is now. That was ok. And then we talked about St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Claire was right there-- you know, she took care of sick people and that's how it came about and Louise's first name is Claire.

Dr. Louise: I think it was Mother Joelle.

Susie: That was it, she just decided that that would be the name. The people agreed, you know. It was after everybody agreed-- which was the Sisters and Dr. Segnitz-- that's about it. It was just a small group, I mean, it wasn't but six or seven people.

Dr. Louise: It was really peculiar to me. It really was...
Susie: And the committees worked really well. I mean, committees so often don't work so well. But these did.

Int: Maybe because they had a real purpose. Often committees don't have a reason for existing at all. But the impetus to build a hospital—do you think that's why?

Susie: And Crutcher helped a lot, no doubt about it—I mean, you have to have publicity, and he did a fine job.

Int: Who was Mayor then?

Susie: Probably Bill Layne.

Int: When they did the first groundbreaking, were you there?

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes.

Susie: Every time there is a groundbreaking, almost.

Int: Now, everyone believes the hospital is named after you...

Susie: It is!!!

Int: When you knew that, how did you feel?

Dr. Louise: I don't know how I feel. There's something wrong with my feeling state. I had pretty much to do with it and it needed a name and oh...

Susie: Well, being named a Saint somebody when it's a Catholic hospital...

Dr. Louise: That's part of it.

Int: Do you think, when you look back, it was as they say on this calendar— it was a dream, a vision, a fairy tale?

Dr. Louise: Yes, well, it was a dream. I mean, you had to sorta put your stuff together. You couldn't, as I say, you couldn't figure it out. you just had to-- everything happened about as good as it could have-- in my opinion-- as good as you could expect. We had lucky breaks.


Int: It is interesting to show the town and gown atmosphere that is Morehead. Was it more so then? Do you think the school grew because
of the hospital?

Dr. Louise: Surely was a factor in it. It went two ways, trying to get physicians in, they had to have places for their children to go to school. Our university had a training school at the time we were planning this (hospital) so that was a big drawing card for getting doctors. In the same way, the University was having a hard time getting faculty because there was no medical facility. It really was a cooperative sort of thing and it worked well. And I think everybody saw the value of the two.

Int: Today I have a list of questions that are all over the place... So I might jump around. Also, I interviewed Elie Reser because she is so involved with health in this area and you may not want to comment on her comment, but I thought I'd just ask you. She said, "Louise is a healer." That there are doctors and there are medical people and there are real healers and you are one of those, the healers. I see you smiling... 

Dr. Louise: Oh, I know what she’s saying. I think a lot of people just come to a doctor just to talk.

Susie: I agree. They do! And Louise is good at that. She can get people to talk to her about their problems, their illnesses.

Int: Which sort of leads to the next question, which is-- and people say this more and more today-- that your mind and body are totally connected-- that you can make up your mind not to let your leg let you fall. And she never thought about it. She was going to try.

Susie: Well, I think-- I agree-- the mind is a big factor in any ailment, whether it's physical or a combination, most everything is a combination.

Int: Do you think people can just give up?

Dr. Louise: Did you ever notice how many people, if their spouse dies, within six months they die?

Susie: Even if the other spouse wasn't sick, they get sick.

Int: So, what you say-- your mind, does it grasp what you are saying if you say it.
Dr. Louise: Yes, if you say it or feel it even.

Int: Often I hear students say ahead of time, "I won't do well." or "I'm no good." So, as a healer, just knowing that and letting people talk it out is a healing part?

Dr. Louise: I think you have to get everything together and compare it all. You just have to figure things out. Sort of lead them along, you know. They can almost always give you pretty good examples from what has happened.

Int: How did you come to know this?

Dr. Louise: I guess it was in course 404... (laughing) No. There is no course in med school.

Int: Anyone who knows what I'm trying to do says, "Oh, I love Dr. Louise." And, let me tell you this and I must tell you that. Everybody loves you-- how does that make you feel?

Dr. Louise: I guess I'm just a good liar!!

Int: What?

Dr. Louise: A good liar. Makes everybody feel good. Oh, I don't win everybody.

Int: What is your general feeling about people?

Dr. Louise: I believe I like people. I like people to be their own self. I don't like people to try to play like they are something else. I like them to do their own thing. Oh, like for people to like me. Well, Susie and I were talking about this on our way home from a funeral recently-- that that was the age when people really did think a lot of us because that's when we were going out to homes and that's, well, we just carried everybody's problems. We carried everybody's problems, didn't we? But the people there (at the funeral home, on this day) were about that older age group.

Int: Did getting the hospital going and growing sort of leave you... less close?

Susie: Well, there's just so much you can do. There is NO way we can go on and work as hard as we used to.

Dr. Louise: No, we can't do that.

Int: Dean Philley's wife said you sent her to Lexington because she could afford to. We never talked about how people paid you or what they paid you with.
Dr. Louise: We had one man come in about two or three years ago and pay us for five babies.

Susie: Not with interest but at least they did think to do that.

Int: Five? What would you charge at first? You were telling me about going out to cabins. Did they ask you what you charged or did you have a flat fee?

Dr. Louise: I think we started at $35 or $50.

Susie: We started at $50. Now that meant prenatal care, delivery, and one home call after delivery.

Dr. Louise: We got rich!!

Int: No matter how difficult it was to get there?

Susie: Sometimes it would maybe be four or five days after if they lived a long ways, because then we'd go out on Saturday afternoon.

Int: And if they couldn't pay you?

Susie: We always went and Louise never did look at the books, ever. She still doesn't. It's not her line. And we've never-- oh, I've never fuzzed at people for not paying.

Dr. Louise: But, if they smoked a lot of cigarettes, Susie'd fuss at them!

Susie: Oh, I'd tell 'em how much cigarettes cost and if you'd stop smoking you could put this much back. And I used to figure out in dollars and cents how much they could save and they could pay for having this baby. It didn't work, but I mean, I did it!

Dr. Louise: But, you know, that's not even a worry in my mind-- ever in my life, and I guess I'm really fortunate. I always had a checkbook.

Int: Do you think that made a difference?

Dr. Louise: It may have. I mean, I don't know how it would be otherwise.

Int: I wonder sometimes if people don't think that doctors are out for the money and they make a lot of money. Or do doctors feel they need to make a lot of money?

Dr. Louise: Well, remember, it costs a lot to do what you have to do.

Int: All that equipment must be terribly expensive.

Susie: Oh, it's unbelievable. Unbelievable.

Dr. Louise: We just wrote checks for all our x-ray machines and there it was.
Susie: Back then (in the 40's), the x-ray machine-- and it's unbelievable-- cost $5,000. At that time it was a tremendous amount.

Dr. Louise: Now, with an x-ray machine they'll try to tell you-- oh, you can make that money back in no time if you'll just x-ray everything. Well, we didn't have time to just fiddle with x-ray. We only x-rayed if we had to.

Susie: Sometimes they didn't pay for it anyhow.

Int: Was it more common than not-- that people couldn't pay?

Dr. Louise: They paid for it when they could. After the war it was pretty prosperous.

Susie: The University people paid, but like, you know, we'd send them to Lexington because they could afford to go.

Int: How do I say this? When you hear something like this, it sounds as if you had decided to dedicate yourselves to taking care of the poor. However, when I talk with you, I don't hear that. I just hear that you took care of people.

Susie: I think that's very good-- taking care of sick people.

Int: Did you ever get paid in odd things like chickens or quilts?

Dr. Louise: I don't think we ever did.

Susie: People bring us things all the time. More like presents. . . Now, you take this rug. That one over there, the woven rug. A ninety year old man made that.

Dr. Louise: Yes, everybody talks about getting paid in odd, well, we never did that. We never did that. If you couldn't pay us, you couldn't pay us. That $3.47 was the worst one! It was a delivery and they had saved all the time this woman had been pregnant in order to be able to pay for the delivery. So, at the time she delivered they had saved $3.47. They insisted that we take it. They didn't want us to do that for nothing. That was one of those places, I told you, where they didn't have any floor, just the ground. They had no water, no light, nothing. But the child had a bladder that was on the outside. It lived. We sent it to Lexington.

Int: What do you think, in your time, working with patients and medicine and reading, are the best medical advances in your lifetime?

Dr. Louise: It would have to be technology, I think.

Susie: Another thing, when we started out, people died of tuberculosis and cancer of the cervix. It's rare that happens anymore. We actually saw people die of tuberculosis
complications. And we saw many women with cancer of the cervix. You just don’t see much now. I mean people do still die of cancer of the cervix, but to me those are few. Pap smears account for that and having examinations. You know, women used to not have that done unless they were pregnant.

**Int:** Was that ignorance or modesty?

**Dr. Louise:** It was ignorant modesty! You just didn’t go to the doctor except if something was false.

**Susie:** Not just for a routine checkup.

**Dr. Louise:** You went because you were hurting someplace.

**Susie:** And another thing is immunizations. As I understand it the kids aren’t being immunized now. But we look at our records every day because we fill out immunization records every day. And we did a good job of getting children immunized out here. And it wasn’t a law then-- of having children immunized.

**Dr. Louise:** We were talking about that yesterday.

**Int:** It was kind of shocking to hear that this country has the lowest immunization ratio.

**Susie:** It’s terrible.

**Dr. Louise:** When we’d deliver one, that’s the thing we’d try to keep up on.

**Susie:** When they came in for the six weeks check-up, and most people would do that.

**Dr. Louise:** Because it’s free.

**Susie:** We always gave the baby its first immunizations at six weeks. Now, they may not come back for any more but I imagine even that would help a little bit. But, most people came back as they were supposed to.

**Dr. Louise:** Before that the health department would do it but you’ve got to educate people. That’s one of the biggest things.

**Susie:** It was not required for school. The only thing required by schools was the small pox vaccination. Now you have to have all immunizations-- whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella.

**Dr. Louise:** Wait, how can Clinton say we have the lowest immunization record if you have to have them in order to go to school?
Susie: Babies aren't getting them. Babies are getting measles! Babies should not have measles-- nobody should have measles. They should be immunized.

Int: You mean, for some, the very first immunizations they get is when they go to school?

Susie: Yes, they go to the health department. They can't go to school without them-- and they won't.

Int: And you still keep your records?

Susie: Oh, we have all of our records.

Int: You must have them housed in a building somewhere.

Dr. Louise: No, we've just got our house in a holy mess with records.

Susie: But they're not in the mess that she says. They really are not. We can put our hands on any record.

Int: Of anyone you've ever seen?

Susie: Yes, from 1948.

Int: By the way, is it true that when you opened your office at first, Eldon Evans said that he was going down the street and looked up and you two were hanging out the window and he asked what you were doing and you said you were looking for patients?

Susie: (Laughing) Probably did! Well, we may have SAID that but that way it couldn't have been because we didn't have that front office. But we were looking for patients-- that didn't last long! Well, we could have been looking out the window and said that jokingly. But when we were looking for patients it was not from the front part of that office. Louise's dad had his law office there. We were back farther in that office. We didn't acquire that (the front) until later.

Int: What was the address?

Dr. Louise: It was 112 1/2 or 110 1/2. Well, something and a half! We were up there seven years.

Int: When you decided to move-- was that a necessity?

Dr. Louise: Yes, it was a necessity.

Susie: Really, we were wasting too much time, even though we enjoyed going out on the deliveries. You know you have to wait, you have to wait a while... and wait.
Dr. Louise: I guess you could be there the whole day. And we have been. We most always
told somebody where we were.

Int: So you lived in the office and that way you could get some rest
and still be with the patient? Were there any laws or rules about doing
that?

Dr. Louise: The only thing was, you couldn't have the air conditioner going in the delivery
room.

Susie: That's right, that was the law. We could not have it going in the delivery room because,
well, we would give chloroform sometimes, and it would go all through the building.

Dr. Louise: We didn't do much ether.

Int: What would you use for childbirth?

Susie: Chloroform or . . .

Dr. Louise: Or, we'd use demerol.

Int: Was that a matter of course or did they ask?

Dr. Louise: Guess if they made enough noise you knew they needed something.

Susie: LaMaze and natural childbirth, that came later. We did a lot of LaMaze. Molly Carew
taught the classes.

Int: Is there a difference-- I mean, a better, healthier baby without
anesthetic?

Susie: Well, your baby won't be sleepy and you don't' run the chance of-- well, a sleepy baby
is not what you want. See, the baby gets the same anesthesia as the mother. It doesn't breath
as well, usually. Yes, it can impair the brain. If they don't breath it does. We didn't really give
that much, but we gave chloroform with contractions toward the very end. We didn't give it really
but at the very end.

Int: Did you let fathers in the birthing room as they do now?

Susie: Well, when we delivered at home, everybody was there.

Dr. Louise: We had, I never will forget, in my office one time, we had a father in there and I
was waiting for the baby to drain, had the head hanging out, and I guess he thought I was going
to let it hang there and he tried to get over my shoulder. He thought I couldn't pull it out.

Susie: And that's a normal thing you do when the baby's head comes out. You wait and let it
drain-- mucus out.
Int: Does it come out up or down?

Susie: Down.

Dr. Louise: When it's in the proper position. Yes, and just let it hang there just a minute until it runs out.

Susie: Well, that's a friend of ours interpretation, she has two children, and she was knocked out and she didn't know anything and she resented it.

Dr. Louise: The babies are pretty strong themselves. I think it's a miracle. I think every delivery is a miracle. I really do. They are almost able to take care of themselves from the word 'go.' If they could just reach that bottle, they'd be alright.

Int: Sometimes, don't you think that children survive in spite of their parents?

Susie: Oh, yes! Indeed.

Dr. Louise: What did we see on t.v. about kids putting stuff in their mouth?

Susie: I think it was a commercial, but that is so true.

Dr. Louise: Oh, it was a potato chip. Everything else they'd put in their mouth but not the wrong kind of potato chip.

Int: I guess you've known them to swallow funny things.

Susie: We had one kid that swallowed a silver dollar. In fact, do you know what, it was Tick's nephew. (Eldon Evans)

Dr. Louise: We've had a lot of 'em swallow money.

Susie: But this was a great big one. And we took a picture and there it was. It was huge but it went through. A great big thing like that. This kid must have been, oh, he was big enough for it to come out. It was just beyond his throat. And so, he just kept swallowing and he knew immediately when it moved. He was so happy.

Int: Was that the strangest thing?

Susie: Oh, false teeth. Remember the man who couldn't find his false teeth? Well, they were in his throat. We just stuck a finger down there and got them out. Well, he'd had a stroke. His sister looked everywhere and she couldn't find them and she knew he couldn't possibly swallow them and we too looked. Of course this happened the day before and of course he wouldn't eat. So Louise stuck her finger down (see, this was at home) in his throat and there they were and
she got those teeth out. I don't know how in the world she did it because they were sideways down in his throat.

**Dr. Louise:** I don't know, they looked like a big "C" or something. That was like turning a breech baby. Now with most babies there are no problems. In fact, you think you have a lot more problems than you do.

**Susie:** If you'd just wait, most of the problems will take care of themselves.

**Dr. Louise:** Just time is the answer, many many times.

**Int:** Probably just having somebody there is the help.

**Susie:** Oh, that means so much, it sure does.

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, I've known my mother to go lots of places to be with that baby-- I guess you'd go to help. I remember, with her friends, my momma would go to hold her hand or rub her head.

My grandmother had 15!! Well, my grandfather came in one day when she had just had the fourth and fifth (twins) and he'd been up trying to 'grub'. Do you know what that is? That's to take the little bushes and trees and things off to clear a little piece of land-- so you can grow stuff. Well, he'd been working all day and he looked in, came in and put his hoe against the house and came in to talk to granny. He said, "Oh, I don't see how I'll ever take care of these children."

Well, they tell the tale that granny sat up in the middle of the bed and said, "Abel Caudill, I can take care of these five children and myself, so surely to the Lord you can take care of yourself!!" I think that's a true story isn't it?

**Susie:** I've always heard it.

**Dr. Louise:** So she went on and had ten more! They had been married three years and she had five children!! Two sets of twins. The first ones were twins.

**Int:** Were women tougher or healthier? Now we might have better food and we don't work so hard.

**Dr. Louise:** Hard work is good for you. Now, I don't know, but I think a lot of them died, early. Now, granny's kids, every one of them grew to adults!

**Susie:** Young children would die, just a certain number would die.

**Int:** How old was your grandmother? How long?

**Dr. Louise:** Oh, she was up there. 70 or 80. I didn't remember her very well but she lived longer than my grandfather.
Int: To change this a bit. Louise, what keeps you going?

Dr. Louise: Susie.

Int: You met when-- '42?


Dr. Louise: And I was up there a year and a half and then I went over to Oneida. That's where I met Susie. 45 years, that's a long time. Not many people can get along for that many years.

Int: More than get along-- all day, working together. I imagine you went through a lot of hell together. I mean tired and overworked, hungry, just traveling with somebody is hard, but you are working under difficult circumstances. How did you do it?

Susie: Well, we did different things.

Dr. Louise: We never did fuss much. We were just lucky.

Susie: We both had the same ideas. I mean when we first started out, we, I mean, we both intended to make medicine count for something. We really did. And we felt that way before we met each other. Definitely.

Int: So, how did you discover-- how did you find out that you both had the same goals? Discussion? Accident?

Susie: Accident!!

Dr. Louise: I'm a great believer that most of the things that happen in this world are by accident. Call it anything you want to but, to me, intellectually figuring it out very seldom works.

Int: But you have to be smart enough to know which accidents are right-- I think artists call them happy accidents.

Susie: There, we worked hard, I mean, we worked really hard.

Dr. Louise: The only thing to say was can you get a little sleep tonight. And it was night and day when we got started. That first month or so we were upset because we weren't working.

Susie: That did NOT last long.

Dr. Louise: But, you see, we had so much to do and went out to deliver babies and carried all that junk to deliver 'em and then we had to come back home and get those things clean. Well, it might be 3 o'clock in the morning and we'd go over to Jane's house and put 'em in the washing machine.
Susie: That was when people had just started to have automatic washers. So, we used Jane's whenever...

Int: Did she leave the door open for you?

Susie: Oh, everyone left their doors open. It was in the basement. We had to put them in right away and-- oh, we were kept busy.

Dr. Louise: And I hate to tell you, but Susie did most ALL the work. I was always sort of hanging back doing something else and that didn't make the work get better.

Susie: Well, but you had to study and do those things.

Dr. Louise: Yes, I read a lot more than she did.

Susie: She had to, you know, I mean she had to figure out something when you hadn't had the experience before. And we felt we had to do whatever it was-- whatever was presented to try to take care of it. We sent people to Lexington but it took a long time then to go to Lexington. But other than x-ray and doing blood count, which we did-- I mean, I took blood counts because Louise taught me how because she still knew how.

Dr. Louise: Oh, I'll never forget trying to do a spinal tap on a baby on my knee. Now, I wouldn't do a spinal tap today for nothing. I had this little kid and we wondered if it had meningitis and you could tell pretty well by a spinal tap. So I just took an ordinary little needle and it worked just great. Now I wouldn't do that-- no way.

Susie: NO WAY.

Int: Because you know what could happen.

Dr. Louise: Because you got other people who can do it-- we've got the facilities. We didn't have any place back then. You did it where you were.

Int: Now would you say that either one of you could have accomplished your ideas or dedication without the other?

Susie: It never occurred to me to think about it.

Dr. Louise: No. I'll never forget, I went to get Susie out of a show one afternoon because we had to go deliver a baby and I was afraid to go by myself. Susie was on a date.

Susie: Yes, I was on a date at a movie and Louise came in and got me-- I remember that, yes.

Int: What about the date?

Susie: I think maybe he came with us.
Int: It's wonderful to see the admiration you have for each other. Has that seemed to grow over the years?

Susie: Oh, yes.

Int: I wonder-- and you don't have to answer this-- but Susie, you have worked with Louise all your life and then Louise has made honorary this and that. . .

Dr. Louise: No, it's not fair, it makes me feel . . .

Susie: It makes Louise feel bad.

Dr. Louise: I don't like to get those things.

Susie: Oh, I'm the supporting actress!

Int: They get Academy Awards too. And it's no use being the lead in the play if the people around aren't really good.

Susie: It makes Louise feel bad, it doesn't make me feel bad.

Dr. Louise: It always makes me feel bad and I can't understand why she doesn't get mad. I think I'd really get mad.

Susie: I really don't and I don't have any deep seated resentment either, I don't.

Dr. Louise: Well, it's just not fair.

Int: That's why the title of the play is as it is. The title doesn't have your name on it-- it has hers, "Me 'n Susie."

Dr. Louise: Well, that's they way it is except it's mostly Susie.

Int: That sounds like a good last line, 'it was me 'n Susie, but mostly Susie.' But, that's the way it is now and you don't mind that? I did want to ask you if you thought I might interview your sister, Lucille.

Dr. Louise: I think you'd have a better subject if you'd write on her.

Int: Also, I talked with Mr. Evans and he told me this (if I can use it) and he said that you took care of his mother and that when Louise came to see her she would just get in bed with her-- and then be telling Susie what to do. And I thought, how comforting for a patient.

Susie: Well, what she would do was just get up on the bed-- touching.
Int: Do you know how rare that is today? Some doctors just write you a prescription but don't touch you unless they have to. Do you think that is important?

Dr. Louise: I think that's important. Nowadays it's a lot different. The whole philosophy of living is different today than it was 30 years ago. People think differently now. Now you'd be considered a screwball, or you'd be a gay or you'd be-- what is it they say about men-- oh, abusive. I mean, you know, they make something out of everything nowadays.

Susie: Now, a male doctor especially has to be very careful. If he pats that little lady on the arm, why...

Dr. Louise: You could be sued for that.

Susie: And if he pats you on the butt, for sure he will.

Int: If it has become so that you can't touch people anymore, aren't we taking away a lot of healing possibilities?

Dr. Louise: I think so, yes. And it's our custom and I don't know how we ever got into such a mess. But, it seems like it's getting worse and worse. If we have a few more government interferences... besides a person's personal life is their personal life.

Int: Well, anyway, I was struck by what a personal comfort that must have been. Maybe you can still do it.

Susie: Oh, she still does. But we don't make many house calls now.

Dr. Louise: I know I most always take them by the shoulders or always touch them. They usually are sitting there in that chair and I'll open the door and go (tap on the shoulder) and say, "How are you there? I haven't seen you for a while!"

Int: I'm sure it's natural for you. Maybe that is a part of the healing right there.

Dr. Louise: It really is.

Int: So, if no one touches you, you an just curl up and die?

Dr. Louise: You can just curl up and die. It wouldn't be a very pleasant way to do it. But, a lot of people want to do it. I mean, people want to die.

Int: I thought people fought right up to the last.

Dr. Louise: I don't think so. Oh, some do, don't get me wrong, but now you see how many people write a living will-- don't do this and don't do that.
Susie: But that doesn't mean they want to die, that means they don't want to be bothered if they are going to die.

Dr. Louise: But who knows when they are going to die?

Susie: Well, you know if you're not breathing, you're not living and you don't want to be on a respirator.

Int: Are you saying that this shouldn't happen?

Dr. Louise: I'm a great believer that you should get rid of all the pain you can get rid of.

March 27, 1993

Dr. Louise: If you think it could be a difference between a better life for somebody-- for these young women. Maybe they were never encouraged by anybody. Maybe no one ever told them they could do anything... maybe what you say is going to make a difference. I think of those things.

Int: If you could sit down in a room full of 15 and 16 year old high school girls from Eastern Kentucky who want to know you-- have advice from you... what would you like to say?

Dr. Louise: Hummmm. Well, I think there are a few things that are important. I think that you can do anything you want to do-- if it's real and if you really want to do it. You can do it. I do believe women have a harder time than men. I believe the problem is just not that simple. But, I believe you can do it and I think you can make your way. Now, how do you do it? I think you have to keep a goal as you go along-- in your mind. Then, well, you just look out there and see the stars and you want one...

Well, you don't get it that way. I believe you have to be capable and you have to train yourself. I think you have to be physically able. You have to socially be able to adjust to people and you have to listen to those dad gone emotions. I'm a great believer that affect is a great deal more important than intelligence. That's a lot of words to say, I guess, but I really believe that-- you have to have the "feel" of things more than anything else. And I believe that is a big part of health. I believe that a healthy body is particularly influenced by your feelings. Whether they are the feelings for your religion, or your adjustment to society, or your social status, or your cultural level. I don't know, but I think that that's what makes you you. It's the soul. It's the spirit. And-- everybody can do it. Everybody out here has something that you desire to do. Just try to
evaluate it and see how you fit into the picture. I don't think you can take anybody and try to copy them. I think you have to make your situation fit with you. I can't wear those fancy hats and those high heeled shoes-- that's not me. That's somebody quite foreign as far as I'm concerned. I like to sort of be 'prissed' up, but I don't like all that fancy junk. Everybody has to figure it out for themselves. My Daddy always said, you could do whatever you wanted to do. My Mother believed you had to look fancy and do things that were fitting. I got a little bit from both sides. I studied. I wasn't smart. I believe you don't have to be smart. I believe if you work hard enough you can make up for your ignorance. And I don't believe that 'cause I was from Eastern Kentucky that I was any more ignorant than they are in Lexington or Louisville or anyplace else. I don't think that (where you are from) is any measure of intelligence. I don't think just 'cause you aren't from something that you aren't smart either. I really believe you can do it. I mean, if you want it. But, you have to have a stimulus from someplace. But, I believe you can pull it from within. The influence from the outside helps to... (Oh, dear, I was hardly ready for this)

Now, I sorta believe that... that people are basically good. I believe that, basically, everybody is made good. And it's a great satisfaction to feel like you've done something that's worthwhile. I mean that, within yourself, it sorta makes you feel like your life hasn't been a waste. I don't care WHAT you do, if you do it well. And, enjoy doing it. I think you can make your life whatever (your like) or (is your heart's desire). Oh, I feel like I'm preaching a sermon. (laughter) I'm not very good at sermons.

Int: Sounds more like encouragement... And, what about health? What would you tell these young women about taking care of themselves?

Dr. Louise: Well, I think that just like you take care of your mind, you take care of your body. The physical part of it is important. Physically, you just have to obey the basic laws. Eat right, sleep right, don't drink too much, don't smoke, and don't play around when you shouldn't be playing around! Try to do the things that you feel within yourself are right. If you feel like it's right-- it more than likely is.

Int: What about peer pressure? I mean, the rate of teenage pregnancy in this area is high.
Dr. Louise: Well, that rate is high everywhere. I mean this teen sex thing has gone crazy. That is the greatest pressure on a young person today and I think that, well, I was just reading some stuff here. I think the amount of children that have had intercourse, from the ages of 15 to 17 in the past few years (the last 20 years) has gone from about 15% to 70%! So, I think that's the attitude of the day.

Int: You'd think that people were getting brighter—would know more—or know the consequences and that it would go down. How do you talk to these young girls, 13 and 14? How do you talk to them?

Dr. Louise: You can't talk to them. If they have that attitude at 12 or 13, I don't think you can change their mind. I think you have to begin before they 'fall in love.' I think somebody else—the parent—the doctor can help, you can be a 'friend' to them. It's very difficult. I've seen lots of young girls get pregnant. I try to talk to them. In fact, I try to get them on birth control pills. I say, if you want to have intercourse, you ought to be protected. Not that I think that all girls ought to do that, but I think that if they are going to have intercourse they better be protected.

Int: What is the youngest mother you've ever had?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I imagine 13 or 14—13.

Susie: Yes, she was 12 when she got pregnant.

Int: Are women the weaker ones?

Dr. Louise: I don't think we are weaker. Only physically.

Susie: Oh, yes, they are. Women are.

Dr. Louise: I mean, physically we aren't made that way. Why, our legs bow out, our arms bow out. A man is made in a straight line. Men are made physically stronger, but I don't think that means that they are stronger in any other fashion.

Int: Do you think that life for Eastern Kentucky women has changed any, or improved?

Dr. Louise: It has become more like the rest of the world. Now, whether that's an improvement or not I'm not entirely sure. (laughter) I guess they decided they needed the outside world and I think that that part of it is right.

Int: Why do you suppose people come to you and ask you questions like this?
Dr. Louise: I don't know, ask Susie.

Int: Susie, how would you answer that same question? This group of girls wants your advice. Being worthwhile.

Susie: I think it is important for young women to learn to do something to take care of themselves. I really do. I think that's awfully important. I mean, I think that having a family and having a home life--I think it's great for young women to stay at home. It's good for the children, it's good for the mother. But, I still think she has to keep in touch with the outside world, and not be totally dependent on her husband. I mean, you know, we are all independent... I think, well, first of all, that a lot about sex needs to be taught in the home and I think parents have that responsibility to teach their children--about sex and about lots of things. And, no, not that it's bad, but that you don't have to have sex before it's time. And, you need to know the responsibilities--such as having a baby and diseases and some of them learn, they do. But I think women can do anything they want to do. I mean, they may not be able to dig ditches as far down as some man, but other than that, women can do anything. I mean, there's not a doubt in my mind that women can, and should, do whatever they want, but I still think it is great for a young woman to stay home and take care of her babies if she can at all. I mean, in this day and age, a lot of women can't. I guess when you're pulled in two directions, you just have to do the best you can.

Int: This next question may be a biggie, and maybe you can't or won't answer it--today more and more people can't afford to take care of themselves--they can't afford health care and other things. Is there an answer? Why has health care gotten into such a state or has it always been like this?

Susie: I don't think it's always been--do you?--people not being able to take care of themselves.

Dr. Louise: Well, I don't know. How many babies did we deliver for nothing?

Int: I guess you can't say, "Well, sorry, don't birth that baby."

Susie: But I guess there's always going to be people who can't afford it.

Int: Is there any way out of this?

Dr. Louise: Oh, let the government take care of them--that's what they're tryin' for isn't it?
Int: But that looks like a lot more money going to a lot more administrators. Is there any other way? Maybe go back and start all over?

Dr. Louise: Might be the answer. We'll call you some morning at 3 a.m. and say, 'Here's the answer.'

Int: If you've got the answer, you can call me then. Do you see people neglect their health because of cost? Not doing things they might have done?

Dr. Louise: I believe you can see that in Mammograms as much as anything. It costs so much to have mammography that people say, 'I just don't want to have that done.' I mean, it's almost a daily thing.

Int: So, what other health advice can you give?

Dr. Louise: Yes, I think we've done real good now as far as rural water is concerned. A lot of places didn't have near as much as we did and that makes a big difference.

Int: You mean there were outhouses (in the early 20's)?

Dr. Louise: Well, we had one! On Main Street!

Int: There was no indoor plumbing?

Dr. Louise: No.

Int: And your family was not poor?

Dr. Louise: Now about that, when we moved out to the farm we had indoor plumbing.

Int: And the farm was where?

Dr. Louise: At the lower end of town.

Susie: Down there about where that auto supply...

Dr. Louise: You know where that WP thing is-- great big sign on 60. Going west, that place where the school is out there, the middle school and all that-- that was a private pond.

Int: Someone told me that everyone had a cow. If you wanted milk, you had a cow.

Dr. Louise: You had a cow. That's when I was little.

Int: So, if you had to go in the middle of the night you had to go to the outhouse?
Dr. Louise: Well, and you had a slop jar. Not much fun either.

Int: How'd you take a bath?

Dr. Louise: In a wash tub. On the back porch or kitchen.

Int: So, if you who were prosperous people lived that way-- I imagine, well, you said there were places with dirt on floors. I imagine they weren't exactly taking bubble baths every day. Did that (living conditions) affect the babies at all?

Susie: Well, they are babies. They get diarrhea if you do not breast feed them.

Dr. Louise: Yes, but I don’t think there were any more anomalies. We really had very few.

Susie: Yes, and really the diet is not too bad. They ate a lot of beans and they are very nutritious. Most people canned tomatoes.

Dr. Louise: And they didn’t take medicine.

Susie: That's true too.

Int: You mean that’s good?

Dr. Louise: That’s good.

Int: So, it’s better for the child if there are no drugs in you?

Dr. Louise: Well, I think the mother develops certain immunities and things from where she lives and the child comes right into that environment.

Int: What would you say success is?

Dr. Louise: Success comes in lots of different forms, different kinds of packages and is different for each person. Being able to do something and then doing it, I believe that’s about as quick as I can say it. You just can’t do your work if you don’t enjoy it. I preach that sermon every now and then.

Int: Would you say you were lucky or did you know you were going to like it?

Dr. Louise: I was mostly lucky but I had a fairly good idea of what I wanted to do. I didn’t really think it was going to be as hard as it was.

Int: As hard as it was? They studying or the actual practice?

Dr. Louise: Either one-- both.

Int: What was the 'hard' that you didn’t expect?
Dr. Louise: Well, I thought I could comprehend better than I could. I wasn't as smart as I thought I was, from the studying viewpoint. From the working viewpoint, I just couldn't go all day long... and that was when I was a darn sight younger than I am now. It was just physically taxing. If I had one place I had to go to, I had to stop three times going up that hill-- and that was from the very beginning.

Susie: We just had to go day and night, and day and night.

Dr. Louise: We had one place we used to go to and I had to stop three times going up that hill, and that was from the very beginning. I just could not make it.

Int: You mean you had to walk places?

Dr. Louise: Oh, all the time. Oh, honey, we walked all the time.

Susie: Oh, we got our exercise in our younger days-- let me tell you. We did! Oh, we walked a lot! Well, you know, you'd go as far as you could but you can't take the car up a hill when there's no road. Oh, there were a lot of times we had to walk.

Dr. Louise: We've gone out every way you could think of-- except airplane.

Int: Were you ever a doctor in this hospital, like, in the emergency ward?

Dr. Louise: For a little while we were-- for a short period of time. Until, you know, we got somebody there. But I delivered babies in the hospital.

Susie: When I think of in the beginning-- you admitted lots of them. I mean, she admitted a lot.

Dr. Louise: Yes, I admitted the first patient. She had pneumonia, I think.

Int: Did the hospital fill up right away?

Dr. Louise: We just had 42 beds and we didn't have much trouble filling it up.

Int: How involved are you in this new addition?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I mean, I'm just on the Board. We just have a plan. I think it is to open July '94. I know they are on schedule.

Int: Susie-- we really got off somewhere on your advice-- besides to take baths.

Susie: Yes, well, I think that nutrition is really important.

Dr. Louise: And no smoking-- she'll say that.

Susie: Yes, no smoking, that's important. But, nutrition is big on my list.
Int: What's your idea of nutrition?

Susie: Nutrition? Oh, eating, just like the book says, eating grains, fruits, vegetables, meats--eating a variety of foods. Just stay away from your twinkies--unless it is for dessert--and by that time you'll have what you need. And, get lots of exercise! Keep that weight under control because we all have. . . I think you need a proper diet. I really do. I try to keep us on a fairly decent schedule. And it used to be, I'd talk to our prenatal girls and tell them diet is really important and young girls--before they are of childbearing age--it is important that they eat properly. They are then building their bones and this will go on for the next generation. And their teeth. Drink milk. We still believe in milk.

Dr. Louise: And we have seen the improvement--believe me--in children's teeth. Used to be they had little black spots here and all through here. And when you'd examine them before they'd first go to school, you'd see that. Now they are all white and pretty.

Susie: See, they didn't have dental care.

Dr. Louise: And they had no fluoride in the water. And they'd get that treatment in school. Things like that made a big difference in children's teeth.

Int: What about children's diseases? What have you seen change?

Dr. Louise: And we saw this boy and--we knew he had polio.

Susie: You know Steve Young? It was his brother. His brother died of polio.

Dr. Louise: And you walked in that room and you saw him sitting there. . . and you knew.

Susie: His mother was one, you know, who worried in particular about her children getting polio. They were having everything done right for them. And I can remember, that child got sick on a Sunday and she called about noon and we went right over when we finished eating and that child had polio.
Dr. Louise: You could tell him just sitting in the bed. We sent him to Lexington. You could always send to Lexington. We sent him to Lexington that very day. They put him on a respirator that night and then he died.

Susie: But that's what happened to children. They'd just be sick a day or two and die.

Int: Have you seen many children die?

Dr. Louise: More than my share.

Susie: Well, I can't think of one-- oh, those two. Well, they were already dead. Two-- it was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Dr. Louise: Oh, yes, Lord.

Susie: They were driving through here in a car and they had these three children. One was in the front seat and two were asleep in the back. One started vomiting so they stopped. They were going through here in the middle of the night and we saw this child and it was vomiting and you could tell immediately it was from carbon monoxide. Its lips were all red-- but anyway, it got better right away. And Louise asked them, "Where is the other child?" And they said, "He's asleep in the floor of the car." And we went out there and the child was dead.

Int: They pulled up to your office?

Dr. Louise: No, at Mother's. We were living at Mother's then.

Susie: This was about two o'clock in the morning. Another time we had a girl going through here with her parents and her husband, actually her husband, and she was on her way to West Virginia. She was in labor, active labor-- they stopped. So we put her right into Louise's mother's bed-- and we kept her overnight. Well, they were from somewhere in Tennessee and they hadn't been married long enough and they were very proud people-- I mean, this was crazy to begin with. She had that baby in Louise's mother's bed.

Dr. Louise: Well, but then, we couldn't get 'em to leave. After the baby was born they wouldn't leave. I think it was two or three days before we ever did get them out!

Susie: There are-- they were-- these southern people who thought you shouldn't move a muscle after you had a baby. You stayed in bed for two weeks or something-- right, no matter whose bed.

Dr. Louise: Oh, it was something!

Susie: Now, that was a strange experience to get on from nutrition and health.
Int: And now the dreaded subject-- smoking. You started when?

(to Louise)

Dr. Louise: I didn’t smoke until I went to college and I actually didn’t smoke then. I used to 'play' at the sorority house and got a corn cob pipe and smoked that. I didn’t really get the bad habit ‘til med school.

Susie: And it was fashionable at that time. During the war-- cigarettes were big then (1940's).

Dr. Louise: And all of the boys, you know, all of us in med school-- they’d bring in these big boxes, like that-- cartons of cigarettes and everybody got ‘em so if you didn’t smoke, well. So, I had three or four cartons... yes, the cigarette companies gave big boxes to medical students.

Susie: See, I think most of the men were in the military (had been) in the ‘40's and thy always gave cigarettes to the military.

Dr. Louise: There was only one in my whole class that wasn’t in the military. There were two girls and three boys.

Susie: I don’t think the cigarette companies, in the beginning, knew that it wasn’t good for you.

Dr. Louise: That wasn’t considered a health problem really-- smoking.

Susie: Not at that time. But I think that was the beginning of the health problem.

Int: How much would you smoke, when you really got into it?

Dr. Louise: All the time I was awake.

Int: Can I put that in?

Dr. Louise: That was the truth. now, when I quit, I woke up at 3 o'clock in the morning to smoke a cigarette and I said to myself, 'Now, Louise, you don’t need that.' So, I didn’t smoke it. I went back to bed and I went to sleep. I woke up the next morning and I said, 'Now, Louise, you went by that cigarette last night' and I didn’t smoke one. Then I had breakfast and I didn’t smoke one after that...

Susie: I about fainted.

Dr. Louise: She’d try to get me to stop. It would go around in your mind, you know, but you have to hit something that says, 'THIS IS IT.' But I tell you, I couldn’t breathe and I coughed... I quit 14 years ago. Yes, I like to smoke.

Susie: No, I didn’t smoke but I’d light them for her in the car and we were in the ruts and I’d light them for her but I never did buy them. But I mean, it did bother me sitting at a table and it (smoke) would blow in my direction.
Dr. Louise: Only advice about smoking--if you don't start you won't have to stop. (Laughter) And you won't know how much fun it was either--but you don't need to know that.

Int: Who gave you that bunny?

Dr. Louise: The Sisters (at the hospital).

Int: Has that bunny got a name?

Dr. Louise: Just bunny--it snuggles.

May 20, 1993.
Louise Caudill, Susie Halbleib, Travis Lockhart and Shirley Gish
In the living room of Dr. Caudill's home, Morehead, Kentucky

Dr. Louise: Lucille has told me about his one woman play by the woman in Berea. (Linda Light, Richmond, Kentucky) It's about Yount, you know, who did Spindletop. She wrote it about her and then played in it.

Int: First of all, I took this part out of an interview and it would help me a lot if I could hear you read it.

Dr. Louise: Lord sakes, did I talk that much? Must have been turned on!

Int: Well, it was sort of like someone flipped a switch.

Dr. Louise: Oh, listen, I had a real experience this week!

Int: What was that?

Dr. Louise: A man came in and showed me his finger and he said, "Did you know you sewed this finger on 26 years ago?" He said, "You know, I came up and I had cut it off. And you said, Where's the other piece?" and I said, 'Well, my wife knows where where it is.' So, she went back and brought the finger in." Doggone, it took and he has a fingernail and everything!

Susie: It looks great.

Dr. Louise: It just looks like--a finger.

Susie: It was right below the joint. He said it was at the joint but it was below the joint. And it will be 26 years in June--we got his record out. But it just looks so good.

Dr. Louise: Oh, and we have put an ear on, I can remember that.

Int: An ear on?
Susie: Yes. A cow bit an ear off.

T. Lockhart: Isn't that tricky-- I mean, can you always do that?

Dr. Louise: No. No, you can't always do it, but, I mean, that ear, that ear did real good. The finger did too but I can't remember that finger like I can the ear.

T. Lockhart: Don't you have to do it right away?

Dr. Louise: Well, they had to go back home-- they lived out in Farmers-- to get that finger.

Int: What about the ear? If a cow bit it off, where was . . .

Susie: I don't know, but somehow the cow bit it. We had the ear anyway. I guess they brought it with them.

Int: It wasn't chewed up?

Susie: No. Maybe it was just torn off. I don't know what it was.

Dr. Louise: I think we had two ears. Sus, there was one, I think, that a horse bit an ear off and swallowed that ear. And you know what mother said? She said, "They ought to kill that horse." But the other one was in a fight and . . .

Susie: Oh, yes . . . a human did it!

Dr. Louise: Yes, a human did it! So there were two ear stories!

Int: Did he just come in holding his ear?

Susie: Yes.

Dr. Louise: You'd be surprised how well they grow-- quite often.

Susie: Even with feelings, it is surprising.

Dr. Louise: Well, I was thinking about-- you know that book, Rowan's Progress, where McConkey talks about his son's lip?

Int: That book reminds me too, remember the first time I came here I met some people named Hogge who used to live right next door to you? Did we talk about this? Did I ever ask you? They had two children with a disease.

Dr. Louise: Cystic fibrosis. That affects the pancreas and the lungs. They usually die of pneumonia or something like that.

Int: Then they are pretty much doomed.

Dr. Louise: Yes, they can't absorb, in their gut, so they have to take protein enzyme of a kind. They have to take piles of it in order to . . . the pancreas.
**Int:** Well, somebody told me that you built this house right here so that you could be near those children.

**Dr. Louise:** Well, they wanted us to.

**Int:** Had they been real close friends of yours always?

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, he was a Hogge and he was a lawyer. He knew my father but they really were sort of competitive. I mean, they were friends, but competitive friends. But, they wanted us there because we took care of their kids. Except that they had ties with Cleveland, Texas, they took the children every place.

**Int:** For health, for medicine?

**Dr. Louise:** For medicine, yes. They went wherever there was a center that knew anything about cystic fibrosis.

**Susie:** They started out in Cincinnati and their doctor moved to Cleveland, so they went to Cleveland. He did a lot of work for cystic fibrosis.

**Int:** Raising money?

**Susie:** Well, Norma's done that but she got out of it when she found out what happened to the money!

**Int:** What?

**Susie:** It didn’t get to the proper source.

**Dr. Louise:** They did get something out of it.

**Int:** Well, when I first came here, I looked over to see a path from this house to that house, but I didn’t see one.

**Susie:** Well, no, but maybe at one time there could have been.

**Dr. Louise:** Back then. This is many years later.

**Int:** So the grass has grown up. So, do children with cystic fibrosis need-- oh, why would you have to have closeness... emergencies?

**Dr. Louise:** We didn’t have to. But he’d get to the place where he was like an asthmatic, you know. He couldn’t breathe. I’ll never forget the last time we saw him. He wanted to ride in what he called the World’s Fair. That was a big fair, and he loved to ride his horse.

**Int:** The little boy, how old was he?

**Dr. Louise:** He was about 10, no 12. He started out and got as far as Owingsville and he couldn’t breathe, so they brought him back. and we just loaded him up on cortisone and he got
to ride. We knew we had to give him whatever we could so he could ride in that World's Fair. It was awful important to him so whatever it took, we did it.

Int: So were you living next door to each other when the children died?

Dr. Louise: Not when the daughter died. They lived downtown when she died.

Int: I'd like to ask you more about one statement in the first interview. You said, "I believe that affect is more important than intelligence." Now, Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Could you talk about that?

Dr. Louise: Affect? Well, affect is that thing that makes you 'feel' about something. It isn't what you know about it. It's the feeling of it and it is the interpretation that you believe yourself. It's not-- oh, this is the way it was back in so and so and we did this and that-- that's knowledge; facts. And facts, you need a few of them but if you can't get the feel of them it wouldn't be any good. Affect is your utility of what you have within. I don't believe that the people that actually accomplish are so much the... ? I think you have to have some knowledge.

T. Lockhart: It's a human thing? You can't just go to medical school and come out and then that's all there is to it. I mean, if I go to a doctor, I want more than just his or her knowledge of what I have--

I want to be cared for. That's it isn't it?

Dr. Louise: Uh, huh, cared for. And we don't have enough knowledge, in medicine, we're way off of all knowledge but-- I don't mean damn knowledge, and I think knowledge is important. I wish I had a lot more of it. Why there's philosophical goings on here. It's the soul, it's the spirit. And everybody can do it. Everybody out here has something that you desire to do. Just try to evaluate and see how you fit into the picture. I don't think you can take anybody and try to copy them. I think you have to make your situation fit you. I can't wear those fancy hats and those high heeled shoes. That's not me. That's somebody quite foreign as far as I'm concerned. I like to be sort of prissed up but I don't like to stay that way. Yes, well, I do like to get all fancied up every now and then. Oh, Lord sakes, don't let me stay that way. Everybody has to be themselves. My Daddy always said, "You could do whatever you wanted to do." And Mother believed you had to look fancy and do things that looked fitting. I got a little bit from both sides. I studied, I wasn't smart. I believe you don' have to be smart. I believe that if you work hard
enough, you can make up for your ignorance. And I don't believe that because I was from Eastern Kentucky that I was any more ignorant than they are in Lexington and Louisville or any place else. I don't think that where you are from is any measure of intelligence and I don't believe that because you aren't from something that you aren't smart either.

**Int:** Thank you. I just remember that what you said was so wonderful I wanted to hear it again. Also, today, I have a list of things. I, when we started out there were a lot of things I wasn't ready to think about yet and now we have to-- like a set, like music, or clothes-- all those things you have to do to put it together. Is there a kind of music that you like?

**Dr. Louise:** I tell you, I thought the Rhapsody in Blue the other night was wonderful.

**T. Lockhart:** Larry Keenan was magnificent.

**Dr. Louise:** I went to Lexington to hear the music from Oklahoma and I really enjoyed that very much.

**Susie:** It sounds like Broadway musicals.

**Dr. Louise:** I liked South Pacific, I thought that was a good one. Well, I can't remember...

**T. Lockhart:** Sounds like you like Rodgers and Hammerstein. Sound of Music?

**Susie:** Yeah, and we like Cinderella.

**Int:** What about-- oh, when you come home tired at the end of a day-- do you put on music?

**Dr. Louise:** We usually go swimming. Well, when the man comes and gets in the water... I used to play tennis all the time. I'd play five hours on Wednesdays.

**Int:** Do you play tennis too, Susie?

**Susie:** I do, but not five hours!

**Int:** Who would you get for a partner?

**Dr. Louise:** The next door neighbor. She could play just as long as I did.

**Susie:** Norma (Hogge) would play tennis for five hours-- on Wednesdays. We took the whole day off and played tennis, all day long. They'd take time out for lunch and then back they'd go. I like to play but not like that.
**Int:** Do you play any more?

**Dr. Louise:** I have a little trouble--my legs don't work anymore. As I look at it, surely to the Lord I was better back then than I am now.

**Int:** Well, I remember you telling me that years ago you had to walk up those hills and that was hard.

**Susie:** She was a smoker.

**Int:** She says it was her legs, you say it was her smoking.

**Susie:** But they go together.

**Dr. Louise:** You don't get any air. Well, it got worse as time went on.

**Susie:** But, you've done pretty good for all the years you did smoke.

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, and I smoked HARD.

**Int:** What do you mean by hard?

**Dr. Louise:** Well, you know those people who take a little bitty smoke and then let the cigarette rest in the ash tray? Not me! I'd take a great big drag, like that, get it down in my lungs good and then I'd blow it out. Y'all, it was wonderful.

**Int:** Did you smoke tough cigarettes too--like Camels and Phillip Morris?

**Dr. Louise:** Oh, Pall Malls and for a long time I smoked those things like brown paper--to cure smoking. Wet brown paper. That's what Carlton's taste like. I smoked them for two or three years. They are the worst tasting thing you could ever imagine.

**Int:** They're supposed to be the lowest in nicotine.

**Dr. Louise:** That's why I smoked 'em. They were terrible.

**T. Lockhart:** How did you quit? Did you just stop?

**Dr. Louise:** I got up one morning, three o'clock and came in here to smoke a cigarette and I just gave myself a talk and said, "Louise, you don't need that cigarette." So I went back to bed and as soon as I got out of bed I started and thought about last night and didn't have that, and so the last cigarette I didn't have was the last one I didn't have.

**Int:** But were you feeling the effects of it (smoking) by that time? When you said, "I don't need it," you must have felt something.

**Dr. Louise:** I'd have coughing spasms--so bad they would disturb the whole church. That wasn't good for a doctor.
Int: Oh, my, if you chain smoked, how were you delivering babies? What did you do in your office?

Dr. Louise: I smoked in the office. You know, I don't see how people could stand me 'cause I smelled like a drain—was bound to. Because now, when somebody smokes, it really gets me.

Int: I don't know how we got on this from music!!! (Laughter)

Dr. Louise: How about 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes?'

Int: Every time we start here we end up over there-- every time. music, back to music. Let's say they want to use music to open during intermission, or something-- what music would you identify with, or by?

Dr. Louise: What kind of music to open or end with?

Int: Well, yes, the kind of music significant to you. This sounds like one of those dumb questions like, 'If you could be an animal, what kind of animal would you be?'.

Susie: I think we'd have to be thinking about it.

Int: By the same token, hymns, are there any hymns that you are particularly fond of?

Dr. Louise: Oh, I do that almost every Sunday morning. I go through the hymn book and decide which ones I'll have for my funeral.

Int: Hey, you don't listen to the sermon?

Dr. Louise: No, I guess you'd have to give us homework to do that. Well, let's see. What songs do I like? I'll make you a list.

Int: Okay.

Dr. Louise: If I had to choose a hymn for the morning it would be one that had two verses I guess.

T. Lockhart: Reminds me of when I was a child— I'd choose them this long or this long.

Int: What about— oh, my— these are like journalism questions, about art. I know you have two Bernard Buffets.

Dr. Louise: Oh, I like art that looks like what they're trying to paint. I don't like abstract. I like it to have a feeling. I like it to be something or personal and not too much, not the frilly stuff so
many people like (pointing to the Buffet painting). Now, I think that’s a pretty good picture, don’t you?

Int: Yes, and the one in the living room. What about any passages in the Bible that you are fond of?

Dr. Louise: I have some passages I like but I just couldn’t tell you right off.

Int: I’m not asking Jeopardy questions—just sometimes there are things that inspire you or lift you. What about travel— I know you’ve been to South America.

Dr. Louise: To Asia, China, Sweden, Europe, Alaska. . . all over. Usually we went someplace once or twice a year. We went on one of those safaris where you go on a kind of a bussy thing and shoot your camera. I used to do lots with a camera. Did lots of movies. Did pictures of the World’s Fair in New York in 1939. I had a picture of Old Faithful and I’ve never seen one I thought was good.

Int: Really? Do you still have those?

Dr. Louise: They’ve vamoosed. . .

Int: I was going to ask you if you had such things as photographs.

Dr. Louise: We don’t have much. We tried to find some pictures when they did that thing up at school and we couldn’t find but that one picture of me. I don’t know where they went and I don’t know that there was one— about that long and about that wide, of me and I can remember I had a little curl hanging down. That just went off someplace.

Int: Also, there were some letters about the hospital.

Susie: I looked and I can’t find them— but I’ll keep looking.

Int: The ones where they called you a socialist or a communist or something.

Dr. Louise: I was a bad girl.

Int: I know that this will not be written like the classic plot— conflict and resolution— but I’m trying to think of what would be the big conflict in your life. And I remembered those letters when you were having a hard time getting the hospital the way you wanted it to be. That seems to me that that would have been something you really
fought for and believed in.

Susie: But, in reality it didn't come to that.

Dr. Louise: Well, we had to leave a lot of it out but we got the structure... I wanted the hospital to have in it all the specialists. I wanted the General Practitioners to send the people to the hospital for the specialists; cardiologists, neurologists, and so forth. And when they got through with them, got them well, they send them back to the family practitioner. That was the kind of set up that we had in mind. And, there's lots of reasons why it wouldn't work-- because the specialists would all-- the way we had it in our minds then-- would all be paid the same salary. We found out some places that had had that. They had an opthamologist that would rather be on the golf course as in the hospital. There were some problems with our idea too-- the specialists wouldn't always do what you wanted 'em to. And too, the practitioner might not be able to pick up what was wrong in order to get them to the specialist. I mean, there were problems with it. Even though I think it's a good idea-- well, you have to get an awful lot of people to agree with you. You have to have a lot of people who have that 'affect.'

Int: So, it was hard to find, at that time here in Morehead, people who were supportive of what you wanted to do.

Dr. Louise: Well, see, our plan was made by Dr. Willard and Bob Johnson and Dr. Pellegrino, Dr. Segnitz and myself. We're the ones who figured out what we thought it ought to be. They were all from New Jersey-- from the University of Kentucky. See, they were starting the med school there-- the same time we were building this hospital. So, they were interested in the med school as being a part of this community hospital. So, they were willing to just give-- oh, almost anything. Willard and Bob Johnson came to all our meetings-- for, I'd say, two or three years and honey, that's a lot for a dean of a med school. But there was a hospital-- Hunterton-- that they knew had sort of some of these ideas. They had this idea of the family practitioner and specialists on the hospital staff. That's where they had that opthamologist. We went up there-- Dr. Segnitz, Sister Mary Edwin, who was about my age. She went up there with Susie. Just the four of us. And we went to their meetings and to see how they did things. We could sort of see that some of our ideas weren't working too good there.

Int: So, you saw the ideas you had actually in practice and they weren't working?
**Dr. Louise:** Well, they weren't fully working. You knew you had to do something to improve on it though.

  **Int:** Did you get your concept from them or did it just happen that they matched?

**Dr. Louise:** A little bit of both. I think Dean Willard had understood the way they ran it up there and he wanted something sort of like that. And Dr. Segnitz, I guess he was-- he would, as Susie said, he called every night about 3 a.m. We'd talk for an hour or two.

**Susie:** That's true. He was great on the telephone, but he was busy all day long.

  **Int:** So, when you proposed these ideas you couldn't get the doctors to come here. They wouldn't agree to get paid all the same salary?

**Dr. Louise:** Well, they did. The ones that came in the very beginning. But it didn't take us long to see that a surgeon has to have more money than an internist.

**Susie:** They just bring in more money.

  **T. Lockhart:** It's just economics isn't it?

**Dr. Louise:** In education it's that way. Certain fields are sort of looked up to-- whether they make more money or not. I know that when I was a P.E. teacher, you were the lowest one on the totem pole. That's just the way that life deals out the cards.

  **Int:** Of course in any field there are people who work hard and those who just loaf by-- which wrecks plans.

**Dr. Louise:** That's why, when you've got the human element-- you've got to look pretty deep.

  **Int:** There's probably a lot of law we wouldn't need either. So, your ideal hospital never happened.

  **T. Lockhart:** You were asking for a certain amount of sacrifice. Sometimes that goes beyond human nature.

**Dr. Louise:** You'd be surprised. There's a man who is going to come next year-- in surgery-- he wants to come and his wife does too, it's really a big deal that both of them want to come and work and you don't make as much money here as you do in Lexington or Louisville. But my philosophy was that there's a lot of people that just want to live calm and easy. Make a living, being well satisfied with what you make doing what you want to do-- not make five million a year. One person said that to me-- 'Just make a living.' It's funny that women will do that-- but,
most of the women aren't married and don't have any responsibility. So, I think that doesn't give women the total edge.

**Int:** What about idealism? The kid that says, "I want to be a doctor and help mankind." Does that really exist?

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, I think it does.

**Susie:** I think the Dean of the School of medicine right now is doing his best to instill that to the students.

**Dr. Louise:** He's good. Why, he said some mighty good words about me.

**Susie:** Med school graduation. She almost didn't go to that. She'd gotten a doctorate down at UK last year. Then Dr. Wilson invited her to come to the med school graduation. Well, she thought, I guess it's customary when you get an honorary degree, to do that, so she agreed to do it. Then when the time really came she thought, well, I really-- oh, it doesn't make any difference, maybe I won't go. It was on a Sunday. It's just a good thing she did go. No, I didn't know either. Jane and I were just absolutely beside ourselves. He said so many nice things.

**Int:** We were talking about sets-- I think they want something elaborate-- and I'm trying to think of a set for you. Tennis court, swimming pool. I thought of that one room in your office that is all full of baby pictures. You know, where you sit on a stool and write your unreadable prescriptions.

**Dr. Louise:** You know that might make a nice background. Susie, she was talking about a background. The pictures in your office. Don't you think that might-- well, everyone is interested, everyone that walks by.

**Susie:** Yes, whenever somebody's in there they walk down that hall and they pass where I am.

**Dr. Louise:** That's really Susie's room.

**Int:** Again, how many babies do you think you delivered?

**Dr. Louise:** Susie figured eight thousand. I swear I can't count that many.

**Susie:** Well, I didn't really count that many but I gave them the ones we'd delivered in the office. But I couldn't give them all the ones we delivered out in the area because all those birth certificates were gone. And then I figured what we delivered at the hospital. Oh, somebody else figured that out, I guess. No, I just figured what I could.
Int: If there were a second set-- well, Travis and I have been talking a lot-- so we went up to your cemetary-- that you took me to. It was the most beautiful day.

T. Lockhart: Must have been a Monday or Tuesday.

Dr. Louise: It is a beautiful view.

T. Lockhart: The first year I was here I discovered it-- and that really is one of the most beautiful scenes I've ever seen. It's not just the mountains and so forth... It's also down into the town. The only other view that I know of in town that can even compare to it up there at the end of Knapp Avenue and Wilson. So, I've been up there every now and then when I needed some kind of uplift. But I didn't know the significance.

Dr. Louise: My grandfather lived over in Clearfield and he could see that hill from where he lived. That's where he decided that he wanted it.

T. Lockhart: It seems so untouched. It doesn't look like anybody goes up there and messes it up.

Susie: That's what we were working on this morning. We fixed some things, those trees that are sort of coming out over the road there. Those need to be cut down, some others planted, or they need to be trimmed or something. It won't get done, but Lucille is sort of handing them some money to get them to do that.

Int: I was thinking that that would make a beautiful set in the sense that you are up on that hill and in the back are the mountains and down below is Morehead. Travis thought maybe that could be a 'downer' to some people-- open in a cemetary. But you don't feel like that up there.

T. Lockhart: Oh, I don't think that is necessarily true.

Susie: I don't think so either.

Dr. Louise: Susie drives everybody up there.

Susie: Oh, I do. It's wonderful.

Int: What would you think of that? As a matter of fact, if you remember when I first started to write this I had it set in the
cemetary and I had never even seen that cemetary at that time. It seemed to me a wonderful way to talk about your family... and then talk about the town because it is right in that setting too.

T. Lockhart: Now, there are ways to incorporate more than one image on the stage. We don't have to limit it to one set-- with the office and the cemetary. We can do a lot of different things. But, I could envision, for example, the play beginning and I could envision the ending-- then to the office-- then to wherever. And the combination of not only the set, but lighting could take you anywhere you want to go. So, we really don't have to be talking about one place, only, or another place, only. There are ways to get several of them. But, the more I thought about it the more I thought about that setting up there as a kind of-- oh, like bookends. You know, this as sort of a framework, this is where we start and then end and it could be quite beautiful... Of course, depending on how it's written, but that's a beautiful image. It really is.

Int: It's wht I first had in my head as a way for you to talk about your family, about the whole town and then to close there too. But I had no idea about that cemetary when I wrote that and so when I saw it-- it seemed a bit like fate. Maybe this is just how it has to be.

T. Lockhart: It's beautiful, but it's also very simple. It's a beautiful and unpretentious place.

Dr. Louise: It's plain.

T. Lockhart: But you see, and that's what I think of this place. In years I've grown to love this place.

Dr. Louise: Well, good. I don't think there is any place like it.

T. Lockhart: To me it's like-- well, I'm from Texas, originally, and have some ties to Western Kentucky. My grandfather is from Western Kentucky. But I'd never lived here and it's just very special. I don't need to get into that but the point is, that you see the mountains and you see the town and you see all that, but it's just there. God did
that, it's not something... 

**Dr. Louise:** That man did... 

**T. Lockhart:** Yes, that's what I mean. It's not pretentious. It's just life. I'd like to see some of that get into the play.

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**Dr. Louise:** That's what I'm against. You know, they sort of paint a picture like we're ignorant.

**Int:** I see what you mean.

**Dr. Louise:** And everybody that writes about this area does that. That's what I thought that McConkey didn't do. (Rowan's Progress)

**Int:** That was a beautiful book.

**Dr. Louise:** Well, you about ready to leave for New Mexico?

**Int:** Today, there are little things I want to ask and I don't even know if I'll use them or not. Also, since I saw you, I've interviewed Sister Jean Francis, Bob Bishop, and your sister-in-law, Jane-- and little things keep coming up. Did you find the letter about how much you needed help?

**Susie:** No, but I asked Sister if she would look. I'll find out right now.

**Int:** I just thought that would be a great way to explain why you needed help-- by reading that letter. (p.s. That letter came to my house a few days later!) If you can't find it, maybe we could piece together what a day was like, living in your office, delivering babies, people waiting... people who needed to go to Lexington and couldn't make it, et cetera. I imagine it was that kind of thing.

**Dr. Louise:** Yes, it was. Yes, I remember a man coming to the back door and half his skull was off. You could see his brain! Oh, it was the x-ray door. You remember that man, Sus, and his skull all-- oh, you could see his brain!

**Susie:** Oh, I remember.
Dr. Louise: We had one, you could see the heart and the lungs working and he was alive! I mean, it was unbelievable what all you would see-- walking, but no, they were usually in a truck or something like that.

Int: Was this from guns?

Dr. Louise: I don't remember what happened to that skull but the heart and lung had been in a wreck.

Susie: It was a wreck with five people seriously injured and I think three of them died. I mean, because we had no hospital.

Dr. Louise: One little girl was running around and she didn't know beans from apple butter, she had brain injury. Now, she got alright.

Susie: Yes, she got alright. It was pitiful. That was on Highway 60 and people were going through town-- because this was the main highway.

Dr. Louise: And you couldn't help them. It was so... I mean, that's the thing that just cuts you all the way through. Helpless.

Susie: Sister is going to look for that letter.

Dr. Louise: I sorta remember that letter now.

Susie: Well, I had forgotten in completely until that fortieth anniversary affair and I came across it accidentally and now I've looked for it every place I know to look. I know we still have it because I made copies of it.

Int: That letter seemed crucial to me because it must have been something about that letter that got Monseigner Towell to come here.

Susie: Well, the idea was that he did want to know what we did in a day in the office, but his main question was, how many people do we send out of town. And it was amazing how many.

Int: Were there a lot who didn't make the trip?

Susie: Not an awful lot. Oh, then many have died after they got there. We would talk to the doctors in Lexington and tell them they were coming and they would be prepared. We had an awful lot of direct contact with the doctors there. Now we hardly know anybody down there.

Int: This is also a very picky point, but when Monsigner Towell came to the office and saw these babies, well, I've heard that there were four and then five and also six. You said, there were two sets of twins and
a singleton-- so there were five?

**Dr. Louise:** Now Susie says that isn’t right, but I think it is.

**Susie:** That’s alright, we had several babies but I think they were all singletons. But we did have, in one night, two sets of twins and a singleton. Not necessarily that time, but we had several babies. We had them on the couch.

**Int:** And that’s what I was going to ask! Is that the couch in your back office now? Now, this is really picky, but would you wrap them in blankets and lay them this way or that way? That way... meaning with their heads toward the end, in a row like carrots or something.

**Susie:** We had only one baby bed. You know, ordinarily, we just had one but frequently we did have more.

**Dr Louise:** I know we had one in a drawer one time.

**Susie:** There wasn’t one in a drawer the day he came. I think we kept it in with its mother, in the drawer. That was another time.

**Int:** I know that McConkey has that story and Elie Reser used that story and-- so it’s been used but it is hard to not use it.

**Dr. Louise:** But you’d like it to be right.

**Int:** Yes, I want it to be right, but, to me, the real point of that is ‘fate.’

**Susie:** Right. It really was fate and it was amazing, how it happened.

**Dr. Louise:** He came about 10 o’clock in the morning. And, oh, that was such a busy time for us. Oh, that office! You know, we had a BIG waiting room and by that time of day it was just full! I mean, people would come and spend the day. I mean, they’d wait a long, long time. They don’t wait like that now. Sometimes they had to wait for a baby to be born.

**Susie:** Why, I think that little Denise who works in the office now would absolutely die with the way we used to be. You know, we’d have to leave-- with an office full of people to go to the hospital or, when we delivered in the office, we’d be out of circulation for a couple of hours.

**Dr. Louise:** Do you remember that time we had that fellow who had polio so bad in that one leg and had broken the other leg and we also had that woman in labor and we couldn’t get the ambulance to come? Back then we’d call a funeral home and they would take them someplace-- but they wouldn’t come and get this man quick enough and we just had to stay and deliver that
baby. So, I just picked that man up and carried him out and put him in the car, or whatever he'd come in. See, I had to get him out of there because that woman was yelling bloody murder. I just knew I had to go quick. Oh, these stories are interfering with your problems.

Int: Oh, no. They are helping. When the women were giving birth in your office, what would fathers do?

Dr. Louise: Sometimes they'd watch. Sometimes they wanted to get as far away as they could.

Susie: Most of them stayed away, which we welcomed.

Dr. Louise: Oh, and then sometimes they'd want to help you. One time I'll never forget, we had this baby-- you know you let them drain a little while-- and this fellow reached right over my shoulder trying to get that baby. He thought I was going to let it die just hanging there.

Int: Now, Jane told me this, Louise, and I was quite surprised. They said that you love jewelry and that you have gobs of it.

Dr. Louise: That's right. Would you like to see it?

Int: That's just what she said you would say. Next, Jane told me about when her last child was born that you and Susie were so tired that you and Susie came over and just got in bed with her and went to sleep. I'd like to use that-- to kind of emphasize how fast you were going and how tired you got. She said you both came over and one got in one side and one on the other side and you both went back to sleep.

Dr. Louise: Yes, that's right.

Susie: That's right.

Dr. Louise: And did she tell you that she drank a beer shortly afterwards? We played bridge that night!

Int: She said that having that baby was fun!

Dr. Louise: I believe it was.

Susie: There was a lot of stress and strain.

Dr. Louise: The first baby I've ever seen delivered was Jane's. Dr. Parks in Lexington delivered it. Oh, I was grown up then but it was before I went to med school.

Int: You just wanted to watch? Did that have anything to do with your med school decision?
Dr. Louise: Oh, no, but I thought—oh, if all babies looked like that one, it'd be hell on wheels.

Int: Now, Jane's husband, Boone, was the brother whose arm was partial?

Dr. Louise: It went to two inches below the elbow. He wanted an artificial arm but I swear I did my best to talk him out of it. I hated the way those things looked then, but nowadays you can have one made that's just beautiful.

Int: Did that affect his childhood?

Dr. Louise: He did everything. He played football. He was a tennis player. It was his left arm. If you will notice all the people you see with one arm like that, it's always the left arm.

Susie: I believe it is.

Dr. Louise: I don't know why that is but I think it is some hereditary thing that causes that. A lot of people say, it's something the mother ate or things like that, but I really believe you see it spasmodically around and it's always the same thing. It had never occurred in our family—not that we know of. I'm a little bit scared every time a baby is born though. I think he was too.

Int: This next question is for both of you—and rather silly maybe—but have any of your male patients proposed to you?

Dr. Louise: (Head in hands) No. No one has ever proposed to me. Sad...

Int: Somewhere I read that sometimes men are so—trusting or grateful and so they just fall in love with you. Didn't happen? Maybe you were just too busy. And maybe didn't recognize it.

Dr. Louise: I find that there are a lot of things I didn't recognize at the time. I had a professor once, and I was a freshman in college, and he said to me, "Do you need a better grade?" He says, "You have a B and you an have an A if you want it." I mean, well, I didn't realize anything, I just said, "A B is fine with me." It was a course in anatomy and I think he realized I was trying to keep my grades up for a sorority or something like that, so if I needed a higher average, he was going to help me out. But, you know, I hadn't realized anything until way after I was out of school.

Int: Also, I asked you about some music.

Dr. Louise: I have a list. And as far as a hymn was concerned, I love "How Great Thou Art" and then, "The Lord's Prayer" I can give you a whole lot of those. Oh, here's the list. I also like "Impossible Dream." And "Rhapsody in Blue." Did we put Bolero in? That's one of my favorites.
Int: I also thought of one--do you know "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let It Shine"? A children's song.

Susie: Oh, yes, I like that too.

Int: Oh, and then I asked you about any Bible passages.

Dr. Louise: You know, I don't think it's Bible verses that I really like. I think it's Bible attitudes. You know what I mean?

Int: You mean, inspiring or consoling?

Dr. Louise: It doesn't come out in a verse. It comes out in my interpretation of the verse. And that's my songs too--they are two verses. I believe, "In the beginning..." I believe I that I use that in my thinking as much as anything. From Genesis, "In the beginning there was the word." I believe that...

Int: You mean, like start at the top and just go where you have to go next?

Dr. Louise: No, I just believe "In the beginning..." is an important thing--and then deciding how things go. Seems like the Bible says that--"In the beginning..." I think that's where things ought to be.

Int: How do you apply that, to say, working with sick people?

Dr. Louise: Well, you just begin in the beginning, how were they, what happened, how did this get out of whack, and how did that get out of whack. And it just seems to me like that is just sort of a big part of all of life.

Int: Like, to get somewhere, you have to start somewhere?

Dr. Louise: And, "In the beginning..." is where everything starts.

Int: Now, Sister Jean Francis was talking about Sister Joelle and she said that Sister Joelle gave this wonderful speech, and the idea of it sounded wonderful--that Sister Joelle was talking about the spirituality of this town. By that she meant, how all the different denominations in this town came together to support them (for the hospital) and worked together--as opposed to, say, the small town Appalachian people stories (as we talked about earlier). I was wondering if you heard that speech? Maybe it was before she went to
Dr. Louise: Oh, I thought it might be when she came back. This was given in Covington.

Susie: At Thomas Moore College.

Dr. Louise: We talked it over (Sister Joelle) both about what we were going to say.

Susie: I remember, and you did talk it over so you both wouldn’t say the same thing.

Int: So, here is a town that is somewhat factionalized, and in comes the Catholic Sisters and instead of everything falling apart-- it all came together. For example, the ministers of all denominations came to work in the emergency ward and that was a kind of spirituality of this town.

Dr. Louise: Yes, it is surprising because almost all of the ministers in this town are a part of the ministerial association in the hospital. That’s really something. There was some little strife to begin with but it ended.

Int: But when everyone can come together for a purpose-- things can work and it did work here. That’s not only about you but about where you are. I don’t know if that side of Morehead has been brought out. It is always the other side.

Dr. Louise: The President of the college up there, at Thomas Moore, is Jean Francis’ brother. My best guess is-- you know, we never did give our speeches that day-- not like they were written. I think she gave hers pretty well.

Susie: Well, the mike was off and you didn’t know it!

Int: Were you the one who brought Dr. Proudfoot here?

Susie: He was going to leave Pikeville.

Dr. Louise: I know he came down to the office and it didn’t take him long to make up his mind. He came down one day and called the next morning before breakfast saying he’d come-- It was just that quick!

Int: And he started the Cave Run Clinic?

Dr. Louise: Well, they all started out as one group. The original idea was that the hospital would hire all the doctors. That was the philosophy of the hospital in the beginning. But, I would say, surgery and medicine had a disagreement. A difference in the attitude of their profession. First they had this little bitty house and it wasn’t big enough for all of them so what they decided
was that surgery would go one way and medicine would go the other. So, that's what happened. He built the one on the hill and Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Black built the Morehead Clinic. Dr. Proudfoot served a definite purpose here-- wouldn't you say that was true?  

Susie: Yes, and he helped get surgery residents here. We had medical residents but we didn't have surgery residents. And part of that was because the head of surgery changed down there too. But he was the one... I suppose his name ought to come up because he was the first surgeon. Then, a Mrs. Ford who gave the land... who wanted to be the first patient admitted. She was admitted but she wasn't the first patient. Mrs. Gully was the first.

Dr. Louise: She was my patient. Well, in the beginning most of the people were my patients.  

Susie: Wait, now, Mrs. Ford did not give that land for the hospital-- that's a misunderstanding.  

Dr. Louise: She gave the land for the church.

Int: Oh, I thought she'd given the land for the hospital. Who did the land come from?  

Dr. Louise: It was Uncle Sam's.  

Susie: Uncle Sam owned it.  

Int: Wait, you mean the United States of America Uncle Sam, or your Uncle Sam?  

Dr. Louise: My Uncle Sam. He didn't give it to us. We bought the land, he didn't give it. Well, there just weren't any houses around there but it wasn't big enough then.  

Susie: There was just one big white house there.  

Dr. Louise: And there was a garden out behind.

Int: A copper box was also mentioned, a copper box for a cornerstone. Did you give something for that?  

Susie: All I remember about that is that there is a picture of Proc and Sally, Jane's two younger children. There was a picture in the paper of them. Some other children who were involved in a carnival to make money for the hospital. That picture is in the cornerstone, and that's the only thing I know is in the cornerstone.

Int: Now, what kind of driver were you?  

Dr. Louise: I was a good driver! Oh, I'd get caught in mudholes every now and then. One day we were rocking real good, trying to get out of a mudhole and we went off and lost the door to the car!
Susie: Yes, the door got caught in the mud...

Int: That far down?

Susie: I think she wonders if you were a fast driver.

Int: Well, I've heard how you'd cover up the speedometer.

Dr. Louise: I had to for Sister Mary Edwin. I'd just put my gloves over there so she couldn't see. Why, back in those days you wore gloves. I just remembered that.

Susie: Other than in winter time that is.

Dr. Louise: And a purse and all that stuff.

Int: Oh, yes, and you dressed up to go on an airplane.

Susie: Or into a hotel.

Int: So, you weren't a wild driver like your mother-- or was she really a wild driver?

Dr. Louise: Well, no, but just sometimes she'd... she'd hit stuff. Maybe she just didn't see too good or something. Mother never did anything bad. She never hurt anyone.

Susie: That's really exaggerated. But she was such a little lady and here she had this big car. A big Cadillac. She bought it herself. And then she had to sit on pillows. She was really a little lady.

Dr. Louise: She just didn't see everything. I'm sure she didn't.

Int: So, did you two just never need much sleep?

Dr. Louise: I need it now, but used to be I could get by pretty easy. I mean, you can sort of get into the habit of not sleeping, I think. Like, when we were working all night, you just couldn't sleep. You might curl up in the back of the car for a while. But we just didn't get the opportunity to go in and go to bed.

Susie: You just make yourself go. And sometimes we'd go away.

Dr. Louise: Sometimes we'd just get on a plane and go to... oh, Africa. So, we saw an awful lot of the world at that time. We'd go to New York. We used to see plays. Now, they tell a good one on me. We got into New York one time in time to see Katherine Cornell in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*.

Susie: No, I think it was something else because I never did see that.

Dr. Louise: Well, it just got so awful comfortable sitting down there that all of a sudden I went to sleep and snored out loud.
Susie: Yes, with Katherine Cornell walking back and forth and we were right up front!

Int: You know, the other night I was thinking, even after all this interviewing, can we ever really know another person? I mean, you know each other well, but do you really know another person?

Susie: No, I don't think so.

Dr. Louise: Yes, there's a lot about Susie I don't know.

Int: I am realizing that it is an impossible thing and maybe that's the whole theme. That, maybe you don't even really know yourself.

Dr. Louise: I think that's true too. We are a different person from time to time.

Int: And we are often different people with different people.

Dr. Louise: Yes. The audience makes the difference.