K-19

Interview with

Jean Mann

by

Misti Turbeville

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Misti Turbeville: I thought first of all, you could tell me whatever you know about the history of the Stanford family.

Jean Mann: Well, our family has lived on this place for about six generations. We go back a long way. Probably the most interesting person, who did not actually live here but he owned the land, was Richard Stanford, who was a Congressman from this district for many years. Actually my grandfather is the one who built the homeplace and has lived on the Stanford land.

MT: Who is Richard?

Mann: He would have been great-great-great, probably.

MT: A state Congressman?

Mann: No, he was in Washington. I understand there have only been two who have served from this area, Carl Durham and Richard Stanford. Let's see, he served--well, he died in 1816. So I think that is probably one of the most interesting things from a history standpoint.

MT: And then your grandfather was the one who built the homeplace.

Mann: That's right. My grandfather did some small farming, but actually my father is the one who began the farm operation. Like in the early 1900s.

MT: Do you remember your grandparents?

Mann: No. Well, my grandfather died before I was born. My grandmother--I was only about five when she died, so I don't really remember them.

MT: And he just had a small farm--your grandfather?

Mann: Well I guess [just] the land. He owned all the land.

MT: So your father then decided to start dairying? When was that?

Mann: Probably 1913 or 14, somewhere in that area. It started as a cream operation--he would sell the cream. Then it went from the dairy to--he sold eggs to Watts Hospital, which was in Durham, when they were just beginning. I was a very young child. One of his brothers was a doctor over there. The interesting thing about this family, I think, is that being in the country, most of them were educated. Daddy had a degree from State College in agriculture. In fact, his roomate was Governor Kerr Scott. Isn't that interesting? And mother was a teacher, and went to school at East Carolina. The aunts on my father's side were teachers, one attended Peace College and taught at a small little school called Mitchell Hill, which was a one-room school that many people in this area remember going to. It actually was across Cane Creek. And then the other two sisters taught at--one taught at White Cross, which is a community school, for probably thirty years or so. Everybody remembers Aunt Margaret. And then there was

another aunt who taught in Burlington. So the family was able to educate.

MT: Where did the money come from for the education?

Mann: Probably the hard way. I'm just not real sure, you know.

MT: The hardware?

Mann: Just the hard way--you know, from working. I don't know exactly where the money. . . but they were able to educate. It was a big family. And then on my mother's side, she lived in this area, and she was a McIver. Her home is where the Bingham Inn is now. And a lot of them were teachers. So I think it's interesting that that generation was as educated, being from a farm community. Daddy had one brother, and he went to school at Chapel Hill, and did his internship in Pennsylvania, and then came back to Watts Hospital and was chief of staff. And many, many of the people of this community went to him as their doctor, even though he was in Durham. His wife also was a doctor.

MT: Your first homeplace was what you call the homeplace now? And you grew up on it?

Mann: That's right.

MT: What do you remember about that?

Mann: Well, I had a twin sister, we were the youngest. I had three older brothers. Daddy often told the story, he had three and then suddenly he had five. This was during the Depression! (laughter) So I had three older brothers. I guess we helped with the farm. I can remember as a young

girl, Daddy had the egg operation, and we would help with that. We would help gather them, and then pack them, and get them ready to go. At one stage we were responsible for some of the young cows. At this time he started into the dairy operation. We were responsible for those [chores], and I can remember having the job of what we call pulling hay up into the barn. You would get at the end of the barn with a tractor, and the rope was hooked to you, and you back up and pull forward, back up and pull forward. You know, very exciting! (laughter) But that was one of the chores. And then occasionally we would drive the trucks in the field when the men would load the hay. Those are the things I can remember as far as helping with the animals and this sort of thing.

MT: All of the children, or you and your sister?

Mann: Of course the boys did more of the heavy work. It was a family operation.

MT: Did you and your sister do more work in the house?

Mann: Probably did. Until we were into school, and into colleges. They did a lot of cooking for the hired hands. You know that was a big ordeal, that mid-day lunch. Occasionaly when we were young they would have these people who went from farm to farm, what they call threshing wheat, and they would bring in their equipment and use it, and you would have all these people to feed. I can remember the big, big lunches. Not only would Mother help, but there would be, usually, hired help, and there was also a couple

of aunts who lived there part of the time when we were growing up.

MT: So who all did live on the homplace?

Mann: My daddy and mother, and the five of us, and there were two of my daddy's sisters who lived there for part of this time. Then they [the aunts] built this house, actually, that I'm in, back in the fifties.

MT: Were they married or unmarried?

Mann: One was unmarried, one was. . . had been married and divorced. She came back, actually, to take care of her mother. This more or less, I guess, probably broke up their marriage. She lived in Raleigh.

MT: You must have had a pretty big farm to have hired help . . .

Mann: Well actually, Daddy had close to nine hundred acres, and he farmed Mother's farm, which she owned along with some of her sisters, which was two hundred. So it was a big, big farming operation. And it grew. It grew from the milking of the cows by hand to the sophisticated equipment that they have now.

MT: So you remember milking the cows by hand?

Mann: I never was good at doing that. (laughter) And I never really milked. I always was a little bit afraid of the cows, in a way. But if they would get out or something, everybody would get busy and do their part. We also had horses at that time. I can remember having ten, thirteen or so, fourteen. And they finally dwindled away. Because, see

at that point, in our early childhood there weren't that many tractors and that sort of thing. There were wagons, and the horses pulled them. When they cut the corn, they cut it and brought it in on wagons, with horses pulling it. Then the horses phased out.

MT: When do you remember that?

Mann: It would have been before I was high school. Let's see, I graduated from high school in 1950, so it would have been prior to that. In the forties.

MT: That you started getting tractors? And trucks, are you talking about trucks?

Mann: Well, and then that came in a little later. Of course, we had cars, but not. . . . Dad would have a car, or probably a pickup, this sort of thing. It eventually got to the point where my brother now is farming, you know they have the enormous tractors, everything is enormous. You have the big combines. . . . But that was a growing process.

MT: Did you have more hired hands before you had the machinery?

Mann: I would think probably so, yes.

MT: I'm trying to picture your mom cooking for all these. . .

Mann: Mom was a very interesting person. Both daddy and mother were very active in the community. Mother was active in the DAR, the Daughters of the Colonial Dames, you know--that sort of thing. That was kind of the thing that

she was really interested in. And she was interested in politics. She served like a chairman for the Democratic Party, this sort of thing. One of the interesting things she did was that she was the state woman campaign manager for Kerr Scott. In other words she coordinated all the women around the state. And that was a big thing. She served on the board of trustees for Chapel Hill for about fifteen years. She was on the committee that searched for Gordon Gray, when they needed a president. She also was on the steering committee that began Memorial Hospital, which I think's very interesting. She was a very active in her own right.

MT: At the same time, what sort of work was she doing on the farm?

Mann: Well generally just anything that needed to be done. A lot of the cooking. Then she would get out and do things that needed to be done.

MT: Like what?

Mann: I think if she needed to she would milk, and this sort of thing. At that time men supposedly did that job, you know. But I can remember her doing that. And she always had a very big garden. That was one of the things that women did. We did the canning, we did the freezing. They would always have pigs and they would do the hams--I can remember when I was a young child they canned the sausage. Of course then we came into the freezer-locker things and all, you know--more modern ideas. But she always had flower

gardens. These were the things she was interested in. She was a very active person, into a lot of things. She worked on the county council, of course the P.T.A.s, and all those things. Now Daddy was on the beginning of the Long Meadow Dairy, on the beginning of FCX. He was interested in bringing electricity out to this area. He was instrumental in meeting with people and trying to get the electricity out to this area. He was on the Orange County school board for twenty-five or thirty years, and served as chairman probably ten or twelve years. Once he got on it seemed he stayed on. But they were both very active in their community.

MT: And at the same time ran a very large farm. You had crops, too?

Mann: Uh-huh, yes--hay,corn, wheat.

MT: Did you mom ever help with those if she was needed? You said she did whatever she needed to do, and I was just wondering. . .

Mann: I can't ever remember her getting out and being on a tractor or something, baling hay, this sort of thing. I remember the old way that they got the hay was they put it on a wagon and then they had this big lift that forked into it and it took a big thing up and went into the barn. And then they came with the little square bales, you know, that they eventually brought in. But you know, whatever she needed to do, mom was there. Of course she had five children.

MT: Did she run the house?

Mann: More or less, with the help of her sisters. They did a lot of the cooking. It was kind of understood that if these people worked there, then you fed them. There was a black family that lived on the farm, and there was--oh, there must have been four or five of those, six of them. The girls would help there [in the house] and the men would help in the fields. They lived on the farm.

MT: As tenants?

Mann: Well, just. . . they just lived there, you know. I don't know whether they were leftovers of the slave movement, but you know. . .

MT: So your mom had some help in the house and your father had help in the fields?

Mann: And in the meantime, I had three brothers who were growing up. They were of course in school, going to Carolina and to State, this sort of thing. You know, educating them through college. Dad had a cerebral hemorrhage back in the early--before the fifties, it would have been about 'forty-five, and he was out of work for about four or five months, and the boys filled in then to keep things going, until he was able to get back. He never was quite as strong. And of course I'm sure Mother helped. I can't specifically say what she did, but you know during an illness things had to go on because when you have cows they have to be milked three times a day seven days a week, and you know they can't wait. They have to be taken care of.

MT: Did your older brothers--what part did they play on the farm?

Mann: They all helped. Some of them were in school during times. And I guess they probably worked on weekends and everything. One went to Carolina, one went to Princeton, one started out at State and finished up at Carolina. The two boys in the middle did come back to the farm, to run the farm. As Daddy got older they became partners with Daddy.

MT: But not the oldest?

Mann: The oldest one, no. He went to Princeton and was interested in the arts, and he was the director of the North Carolina Museum of Arts in Raleigh for many years. He actually didn't like the farm as well as the other boys.

MT: Was there any problem--did anyone ever expect the oldest son. . .

Mann: Probably, yes. But you know it just worked out that way, and people have to take what's their own interest, I think, for it to work out.

MT: So you don't remember any family arguments?

Mann: No. I think probably two [sons farming] was enough. And when they began really working very hard with Daddy for several years, then the middle brother had cancer and died, so it left the farm run by the younger brother. So his wife and Bill have run the farm, and had had a dairy operation until a year or two ago when the Cane Creek thing bought the land and bought the barns. So he was really

actually forced to sell the cows. Now he does have probably fifty head of small cows on the farm and he actually farms the rest of the land in crops--soybeans, wheat, corn, and hay.

MT: Did you ever have any interest in the farm? Did you ever think you might come back to it?

Mann: Not really. . . I wanted to come back and live on the farm, which we have done, after living in Chapel Hill for eleven or twelve years--we've been out here fifteen years. And it's part of me, you know, the land and just the feel of being here is real important to my piece of mind, I guess.

MT: Do you enjoy farm life?

Mann: Uh-huh, the wide open spaces--there's nothing like it.

MT: This takes me back to a little bit more about your growing up on a farm, and the things that you remember that you especially enjoyed doing. I guess where we can start is with what sort of work you did. You told me some of the chores that you were responsible for. Was there anything else--like household chores?

Mann: Oh, I'm sure that we helped in the house, with the dishes and all. And we helped with the garden, this sort of thing. We did a lot of playing (laughter).

MT: Tell me what you did.

Mann: Well, one of the things we did, we swam in Cane Creek. I remember that we did this up until the polio

scare, and then you know they recommended that you not be getting in the water and everything. But we would play on the creek, you know--oh, build little dams with rocks across it. And one of my aunts, Aunt Margaret, would take us down and we learned the wild flowers. This is one of the things that we learned about. I can go down there right now, and just feel this. . . It takes me back, and I take my kids and I say now that's an anemone, those are dogtooth violets, and we look for the albeautis, and that was just one of the fun things we did.

MT: And an aunt taught you these?

Mann: Well, a lot of the family. . . But she is the one that I really remember as being the one that taught me that. Of course, I learned a lot from my mother because she liked plants and everything about nature. And it's in me. You know I love the trees, and I really love the creek, the creek is just real important to me. The idea of it going under water is a very hard thing. It really hurts. But, you know, it's change, and we have to recognize change and somehow adapt.

MT: Your mother sounds like a fascinating person.

Mann: Oh she really was, she was really amazing.

MT: How would you describe her?

Mann: Oh she was a very happy person, and very--right much of a leader, I think. She was active in--I didn't mention the church work that Mom and Dad [did]. [They] both belonged to a Presbyterian church--Bethlehem Presbyterian

Church. They of course were leaders, Sunday School teachers, in choir work, Dad was an elder, and you know that was a part of their lives. Eddie and I are members out there, and we do some of the same things that they did, both of us.

MT: What sort of things in the church are y'all involved in?

Mann: Well, I'm a Sunday School teacher, I've served as an elder--there've only been two women elders out there. I was asked to be one, and I felt it was important. I think women can do things as well as men, you know. I felt like it was my Christian duty actually. I served as clerk of the session, Eddie served several years and then I was asked to, and I guess there's not been a woman who's been clerk of the session prior to that. They thought men were the only ones who could take minutes (laughter). Which is kind of interesting in a way.

MT: So you're following in your mother's footsteps?

Mann: And then I did some choir work, I'm one of the alto voices (laughter)--probably the tape tells that.

MT: What about decisions on the farm? Both of your parents sound like very strong people. When there were decisions to be made, how did they go about making those decisions?

Mann: I get the feeling that they worked fairly closely together. I wasn't really aware of anything. . . It just kind of clicked along.

MT: For example, if your family decided to increase the number of cows, or something like that, how do you think they would have come to that decision?

Mann: That probably was done by Daddy and the boys. They probably would let the wives and mother in on it--I kind of got the feeling it was all working together.

MT: And then if something concerning the house--like adding an appliance or something--would that be the same?

Mann: Uh-huh, that was just usually Mama and Daddy. I think we were very fortunate to live in the country and have the things that we did. Now Daddy and Mother sent their five children to school, and four of us graduated--and four out of five ain't bad. And you did not see that happening in all of the areas, but this seemed to be something that we grew up with--we grew up with the idea that we were expected to get a college degree. I did it because I thought that I should.

MT: Where did you go?

Mann: My sister and I went to a small school in Virginia called Sullins, then we went to UNC-Greensboro for one year, and then we came to Carolina. At that time Carolina--unless you actually lived in Chapel Hill (and we probably could have gone), they did not take girl students until their senior year. We both got degrees in education.

MT: You went to high school in Chapel Hill? Twelve grades?

Mann: Actually, we went to White Cross school for eight and then we did the final four in Chapel Hill. And where we lived it seemed like a long ways. Everybody thought you were really from the country. Now it's different. It's a totally different outlook.

MT: So do you think your own parents--as far as education was concerned--do you think they expected you to do any differently from your brothers, or did they expect the same thing from all of their children?

Mann: The same thing, I think. But we had nice advantages. My sister and I belonged to a sorority, and you know they were financially able to give us things. I think I always felt funny growing up, being from a farm, that's just a little bit of a complex that you get. And I don't know what it is. Now I don't [have that complex]. But I think that's part of maturing. And I don't think my children do either. My children don't feel funny living out in the country.

MT: Were any of you children restricted as far as what you did by things that you had to do on the farm?

Mann: Not really, not when we reached high school. It was more or less do what you needed to do. We went to the football games, my sister was a cheerleader and I was a majorette, we participated in all the activities. At that stage I doubt we did a lot at home.

MT: Who did the milking?

Mann: Well, it would be my dad, and brothers, and hired men.

MT: So if there was a football game or something and y'all were all there would the hired men do it by themselves?

Mann: Uh-huh, more or less.

MT: So the boys weren't held on the farm either.

Mann: No, no, not really. It was pretty flexible. I think they probably set up a schedule, and tried to go by a schedule, for the early morning shifts and this sort of thing.

Tape 1, Side B

MT: . . . talk about a day, a typical day?

Mann: A typical day probably during the school year would be, you know, getting up and going to school and coming in and at one point we did have the afternoon chore of tending some of the small animals, up at what we called the horse barn. And that would be feeding them and watering them and this sort of thing. During the summers I guess we did more with helping with the gardening, canning, popping beans and shelling butter beans, cutting off corn, and freezing. You know we did put up a lot of vegetables, which I still do here. We have a garden, and the things I learned I'm still using. And teaching my daughter, because she comes out and we still work in the garden. It seems to be

the things we like to do. The fun thing is to eat the veggies that you've put up all winter (laughter).

MT: You ate them all winter pretty much?

Mann: Yes, many of the same things. But a typical day would be this sort of thing, and probably helping if there were people in for lunch. . . (phone rings)

MT: I was going to ask, after you talked about your regular routine of going to school and then coming home in the afternoons--what about in the evenings, getting dinner?

Mann: I guess we probably helped with that, and we probably had homework, this sort of thing.

MT: One question I forgot to ask earlier, did your father do anything in the house?

Mann: No, well. . . no. He actually lets the other people do the housework. It's not like it is now. Most everything was--when he came in his lunch was there, you know, this sort of thing. They had big lunches in the middle of the day, too, which we don't do now so much. It was a lot of cooking. I can remember we cooked by wood, and then we went of course to the electrical stove. But I can remember the wood. We never really were involved, but getting the wood up was a big production, which usually the hired people did.

MT: Did hired people do some of the cooking, or did your mother. . .

Mann: Well, usually there was people in the house--I think they did some of the cooking and mostly the

housekeeping, this sort of thing. But I can remember having help in the house.

MT: And your brothers--did they do any work in the house?

Mann: Probably not. I can't remember them doing much.

MT: But you and your sister did help out?

Mann: Yes, some.

MT: When did you meet your husband?

Mann: I met Eddie in high school, when I was a junior and he was a senior. I guess we dated that year, late in that year, like May or so. But he was the three-star athlete, president of the student body--he was the real catch, I think (laughter). Then when I was a senior in high school, he was a freshman at Carolina. We dated about six or seven years before we were married because he was in school and I was in school.

MT: Was dating different then than it is now, do you think?

Mann: Well, we did some of the same things. The movies, athletic events. Probably the same, but not as much going, I guess. There just wasn't as much to do back in the fifties.

MT: Were your parents very strict? Were there rules about when you were supposed to be in. . .

Mann: We had certain times to come in, but we were pretty free--to go to school, and then there were activities after school that we would participate in.

MT: And then you went to Virginia. Was that hard, being away?

Mann: Well, in the meantime he went to the Naval Academy, then to West Point, so we were all going in different directions. Yeah, it was hard, a hard time. But we would date whenever he could fly in on the holidays. And we wrote continuously, you know, to see each other during that time. When we were at Greensboro, of course, we came in almost every weekend, and then he was in Carolina and I was too, so we were there together.

MT: What did he get his degree in?

Mann: His degree is in business administration.

MT: And when did y'all decide to get married?

Mann: Well, when he came out in 1956 or 1955, he needed to serve two years in the army, that was expected. So we waited until he was to finish basic training, because I couldn't go and live with him, so we planned the wedding for that February, so that he could finish this. Meantime, he got orders to go to Alaska (laughter), but those got changed right before the wedding. We thought we were going to have to call the wedding off, but we finally did [have the wedding.] And we spent two years in Fort Jackson, in Columbia, South Carolina, when we were first married. I worked as a secretary to the Dean of Men on campus at the University of South Carolina, and then we came back to Chapel Hill, after those two years.

MT: And lived in town?

Mann: Uh-huh, lived in town.

MT: And what did you do, both of you?

Mann: I worked at the med school Department of Biology until I had Jenny, my first child. He was in the insurance business, then in the building business, and then he went into the savings and loan business. We built a triplex when we first came back to Chapel Hill, and we lived in one of the apartments, and we rented out the [other] two, and then from there we sold that and went into a house, so that was kind of our start, and where our first daughter was born.

(during the next few minutes, the tape malfunctioned several times)

And I've had a degree in education. . . (tape unintelligible). . . somewhere in April or February, or something, and I just really didn't want. . . (tape unintelligible). . . which is why I went and did this, then I would get into a job and like it, so this is how. . .

MT: Did you enjoy working in the pathology department?

Mann: Uh-huh.

MT: What did you do?

Mann: I transcribed the doctor's comments on specimens that were sent in from all over the state. Sometimes we'd have the job of picking up the mail, taking them all out and labeling them and everything, which was kind of exciting in a way (laughter).

(tape malfunction)

Mann: Then as Jenny was born, and then Edward and Charles--I have not worked since that time. We lived in Chapel Hill twelve years and we've been out here for sixteen.

MT: Did you miss the farm?

Mann: Yes, we always thought that we would come out here. And in the meantime, Mother died, and we really came out with the idea of working with Dad, whose sister had moved into the farmhouse, to take care of him. Then we had the opportunity to come out and live in her house. And with the idea of taking care of Dad--but Dad lived almost three years, and actually he died before we ever got moved out here. But this was kind of our plans. So we remodeled this house.

MT: Do you have any involvement with the farm? Other than just being near it?

Mann: Well, actually the land was left to the five children, and for about twelve years I kept the books for this. I now have a brother-in-law who is doing it, mainly because I did it for so long. I also kept the books for another piece of property that has been sold. It was jointly owned by ten people. Actually that's been my part in the farm. The land that belongs to us is being rented by my brother Bill. We're paid so much for the rental of the acres that are ours.

MT: So the farm was left equally divided. . .

Mann: Among the five children.

MT: But there ended up being only one brother who was actually going to farm it?

Mann: That's right.

MT: Was there a problem with. . .

Mann: It has not been a real easy working situation. We are now in the process of trying to divide the land into five equal portions, and have been for several months. We're still working. Several members of the family do want their particular portion. It's very hard to divide it.

MT: Does the farm use all of it?

Mann: Uh-huh, it's been using all of it. A lot of it's wooded. Probably about three hundred acres of open land that are being farmed.

MT: What do your brothers and sisters that want their pieces--what do they want to do with it?

Mann: Actually, they will probably just have this piece and go ahead and rent it to him. But this is just a matter of trying to simplify something before something happens to any of us, you know, and it's divided into even more pieces. I don't know, there may be one that may sell some of the property, but I think most of the others will probably keep it. This is my brother's wife--the one that died--that has an interest. . . [in selling.] He was very interesting, he served in the legislature--state legislature--before his death. And then his wife went in to fill his seat, and she served for, oh, probably three sessions. So now she is a

judge in Chapel Hill. One of the few--there are not a lot of women judges. She's been very successful.

MT: Something that I thought of when we were talking about your brother renting the land--is that a problem for him to come up with the money, to pay rent out of the farm?

Mann: In some of the earlier years it was. So far, now, it's been okay.

MT: Were there ever any hard feelings?

Mann: Well, sometimes it hasn't been real easy. His wife does a lot of the farm work with him. She drives the combines, drives the big heavy tractor, helps with the milking, this sort of thing. But she was a pharmacist, and when Daddy died and Bill was left to run the farm she decided to help do this. One of my boys worked on the farm, I guess when he was about twelve years old he loved it, he just absolutely thought that everything was wonderful. So he did this as a young boy--he would get up at four o'clock and go down to milk. I used to get up and give him a piece of toast and a glass of milk. He did this for several summers. He milked, and he'd do the work in the fields, and the hay, and all of these things. And there are also two nephews, or three nephews that did a lot--that liked the farm and came back and worked during the summers.

MT: Did any of them want to come back and actually work for a living?

Mann: I'm not real sure. One is still talking about doing some work on the farm when his mother gets her share, but I'm not real sure what his decision is going to be.

MT: And each generation will divide it up more, and if you have more. . .

Mann: Uh-huh, it just gets more complicated. I don't know right now where it all--Bill has three daughters, so there's not really--one of them worked with the farm, but mostly bookkeeping, this sort of thing, for about a year. So we don't know where we are going. I had one son who thought there for a while that he might like to farm, but now he has graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a degree in accounting, and is working at the Savings and Loan with his dad. So that pretty well--we'll just have to wait and see.

MT: Your brother's girls don't . . .

Mann: Well, one is living in Memphis, and two of them are close by, but I don't know that their husbands, you know, and I don't know that they could do it without the support of their husbands. So I don't know what the future is going to bring.

MT: And like you were saying, it really is a family business, it's not like anybody could just. . .

Mann: It's a big, big project to run a farm.

MT: Can you think now, looking back, of any easier way to effect the transfer of the farm over without. . .

Mann: I don't know, I think it's the changing times. I've seen this all across the country. We have a farm next

door that there's a son that probably will continue the operation. But right now the whole family is working--the wife, her daughters, the son and his wife--they're doing the milking, and a lot of keeping it going. I don't know what it's going to bring. I hope we'll be able to continue to keep the fields in production. Some of it's in forest land, so this is something that somebody will have down the road twenty years as income. Taxes are high on the land--you know, you have to get something to have some kind of income to offset the costs.

MT: What do you think it is about the changing times that's harder to. . .

Mann: Farm work is hard. You know, it's twenty four hour a day work--there's always something going wrong. You know if you have a cow delivering a calf in the middle of the night, or there's--it's just constant. They are hard-working people. And I don't think people have that dedication. I think there are other things that are easier, and that they can make more money. 'Cause the farmers really are not making the kind of money. . . . The weather, for example [reference to the drought that summer]. It's really devastated these people out here. I'm sure they're going to have trouble with having enough food for their animals. And it's hard work, you know. You are your own boss, but nevertheless, it's so demanding. They have very few vacations and very few times that they can get away and leave it all.

MT: Do you think all this matters more in these times--in the eighties--than it would've, say, in the twenties or something, when there were less things to buy, less places to go. . .

Mann: Right. That probably contributes a lot to it. And Bill will continue to farm, as far as--he's had some health problems--but as long as he's able to. But then what the next step is I don't know.

MT: Do you think the project of building the dam--did that sort of meet these changes that your family is going through, trying to decide who is going to have the farm and everything--did those intertwine?

Mann: Well actually we couldn't do anything toward selling the estate until we knew that eventually, probably--this thing was hanging over our head, you know, for seven or eight years. So until that land was sold, we didn't know what was going to be left. So that has held up what we've decided to do. And of course our family fought this project. We did not want to give up the land. I guess perhaps I worked as hard as any of them, doing crafts and cooking barbecue and doing all those money raising things, and I served on that executive committee for a while, which was very difficult, because I was on that and then Eddie was appointed on the OWASA board. And that made us strangers to a lot of people. And the Stanfords were actually the first family to have the big portion to finally sell, and that created problems within the community. But you know, we

were at the point where we felt like we had to, you know. It was either that or go to court. And everybody advised us not to do that.

MT: Not to go to court?

Mann: No, because you just can't--you will not get as much money. If you're going to have to give it up, you might as well try to do the best you can.

MT: So were you pretty convinced that in the end you were going to lose it?

Mann: Oh yes, that's right. We would never have given up, had we not really realized that the end was right around the corner. And I'm still not happy about it--I guess I fought as hard as any of us in the family. But you know there's a point where you have to work within a family, you know--five people.

MT: But if there had never been Cane Creek reservoir, your family wouldn't have had problems dividing up the land?

Mann: Well, I think it might be hard anyway, trying to take a parcel of land and people get what they want, and satisfied that they are getting a fifth.

MT: So you think it would be hard either way?

Mann: Either way, either way.

MT: So your position in the community was strained for a while?

Mann: Uh-huh, I don't know--I just felt like I had done the best that I could, and people want to think what they

can. . . I don't feel this, you know, I don't let myself feel it.

MT: Has that sort of passed over?

Mann: It's passed over. We have one family here--the Teers--they're the only people that have not sold. And I don't know whether that's worse or. . . . But it was a little strained having Eddie on the OWASA board--it still is, you know. But he is good, and he represents a point of view that we would not have were he not on it.

MT: How do you deal with that struggle between Cane Creek and OWASA?

Mann: In a way I'm bitter a little bit, but I still--I've gone past that. I'm thrown with the OWASA people, you know, and I just have to go ahead. . .

MT: Do you agree with their position?

Mann: Well, I still hate to give up the land. I realize that the community needs water. But the idea of the bulldozers coming in and doing away with the trees still is going to hurt. You know the land back there behind the farmhouse--you know I'm going to have a hard time, there's just no doubt about that. It's going to be a very sad time.

MT: Do you think something different could have been done?

Mann: Well, [not] other than going to the Jordan. But with the community growing as fast as it's growing they've just got to have water, and perhaps this is the best source, but it's a shame for the land to go under water. Once it's

under water it's gone forever. And I hate for us to do away with so many pretty spots. With the roads and developments . . . . And I'm sentimental about the creek, about playing there, about what it looks like--it's like a picture in my mind. I guess I'll always have that.

MT: Are there times when you'd just like to go, "Chapel Hill, your growth is your problem, leave us alone?"

Mann: Uh-huh, but I think that seven or eight years taught us that we can't always have our own way.

MT: So you felt a sense of inevitability?

Mann: At one point I thought we had a chance, at some of the hearings that we went to. I thought we were going to be able to save it. Then it kept getting to be one court battle after another, and we realized that we were getting slapped down. I don't look foward to them building the dam. I think that's really going to be hard on all of us. The trees and the animals--everything gone. We went over to where they were building the other one--total destruction.

MT: Has the Stanford family position in the community changed any because of this? Or is it just something that has blown over?

Mann: I think it's more or less blown over. It was real hard that first several weeks or maybe a month, but you just have to go on. You realize you did the best you could, and you can't suit everybody, you know. We reached the point where we felt like we had to make the sale.

MT: And your farm will be able to continue operation.

Will it be smaller?

Mann: Well, we lost like two hundred acres. The dairy operation is closed down, but he [brother William] does have some animals, some smaller cows. . .

MT: And the crops?

Mann: And the crops.

MT: And as you say, you'll just wait and see as to what happens after [the five family members make a settlement].

Mann: That's right.

MT: Just one other question. Are your best friends out here in this community?

Mann: Well I guess probably the people that--we're part of the church, and I guess that's our community, too. I guess my best friends are my children and my husband, really. My daughter is a nurse--she's an R.N. in Memorial Hospital, graduated from Chapel Hill and is going back for the master's program. She's done some courses--she'll be picking up a couple of courses in Spring and then she hopes to go back full time in the Fall. And the children would eventually like to build out here. I think they want to come back here to live. They're in the Chapel Hill area now. This is what they say.

MT: All three of them?

Mann: Uh-huh.

MT: And one of them may be interested in farming?

Mann: Probably not now, I don't think. I think at one stage he was.

MT: So you have a real close relationship with your children? Is it similar to the one you had with your parents?

Mann: Probably so. But I never went back to work mainly because I felt needed at home. I have a lot of interests, and I've done volunteer work in the schools, and this sort of thing. And there was always ( ) out in the country. I wanted the children to do the things they wanted to do. If they wanted to belong to band, or to the Drama Club, or Scouts, or dancing, or horseback riding or something, I wanted to be available--to Scouts, to church groups--to be able to let them do this. So it really never came a good point where I felt like I wasn't needed. And now I guess I could launch something, but my husband and I are doing some traveling, so I'm contented, you know--I'm contented.

MT: And what all activities are you involved in, to make sure I get. . .

Mann: Well, the church really. I'm doing a Sunday School class there, and my choir work. I'm interested in crafts, and belong to a craft group out in this area. And I have my garden--not only my flower garden, but the vegetable garden that keeps me busy in the summers. I seem to have plenty to do, and we have had a couple of good trips. If I were working I would not be able to travel with Eddie on his business trips, which I like.

MT: Well, you are working!

Mann: This I like, you know. It gives us a sort of freedom. This is the first year we've been without anybody in the house, and it's been nice. And I didn't have the empty nest syndrome, I don't think! (laughter) But Jenny will come out in the afternoon, usually a day during the week. There just seems to be lots to do. I may find a time that a I don't have a lot to do. . . . But I do a lot of reading, and just find that there are plenty of things that I am interested in.

MT: Well, thank you so much.

Mann: Well, I hope this has been good.

MT: It has, it's been great.