

## FRANK JONES INTERVIEW

**DATE:** March 10, 2003

**SPEAKERS:** Interviewee FRANK C. JONES  
Interviewer Kay Hamner (QUESTION)

**TOPIC:** The Carter Center Oral History Project

**QUESTION:** I am conducting an oral history interview with Frank Jones. Is that your full name?

**FRANK JONES:** Frank C. Jones.

**QUESTION:** Frank C. Jones. Well, first of all, thanks for giving me the time.

**FRANK JONES:** I'm delighted.

**QUESTION:** It's very kind of you to do this. I read the speech that you gave, that you sent a copy of, and I learned a lot, and a lot about what went on before. I came in November, 1986, so – I got in on some of the settlement of this roadway issue, but I did not realize how far back – well, I knew it went back some years, but all of the discussions that had taken place, I just –

**FRANK JONES:** I made that speech in November of 1986.

**QUESTION:** I noticed that. I noticed that. Well, let's start with your work with the Great Park Authority. And if you will tell us – I hope that this document that you sent me, which is an outline of the speech that you gave, if you'll deed that to the Library?

**FRANK JONES:** Sure.

**QUESTION:** Okay, because it has some good factual information and perhaps we can just sort of flesh that out today. So if you could, just give a little bit of the background as to how the Great Park Authority came to be appointed.

**FRANK JONES:** Let me say that this speech is one I gave to a group known as the Palaver Club in Macon, Georgia. It's a group of twelve men, who

meet once a month, have dinner, and then someone makes a talk and there are questions afterwards. And I decided on this occasion, in November of 1986, to talk about The Carter Center and particularly about the Presidential Parkway.

My connection dates back to, I believe that it was 1980, as a result of the abandonment of two highways -- proposed highways. There was a large tract of about 219 acres, on which The Carter Center now sits in the most prominent place. And the question was what to do with that land. All of the houses had been removed, but not the trees, fortunately.

And there had been various plans submitted by Mayor Maynard Jackson, and John Portman and neighborhood groups, and others, and finally the Georgia General Assembly established what it called the Great Park Authority in 1980, and directed the members of that authority to come up with a plan as to how to best use the property.

**QUESTION:** I noticed in this speech, you talked about that Georgia laws requires that when property has been condemned for transportation uses, if those uses don't take place, that first of all, the state must offer the original owners back that property. But I never heard anything about any real -- that would have been a massive effort, trying to track down everybody whose houses had been taken by eminent domain. Was there really an effort made to do that by the state?

**FRANK JONES:** No, it would have been completely impractical. It was done, by the way, for a very small number of houses north of St. Charles Avenue. But to try to do it for the whole 219 acres would have been an impossible task.

**QUESTION:** So there are ways in which the law can be fulfilled in some way when the circumstances are such that that portion of law cannot be fulfilled.

**FRANK JONES:** Right. Now, the state, as you know, cannot make a gratuity of land like this -- that's prohibited by the Georgia constitution. But what it can do, and I believe what was done in this instance, is it can exchange this land for other land, and that's the way that the acreage for the Carter Presidential Library was acquired.

**QUESTION:** Now, I was going to ask about that, because in the speech you said something about, they either had to offer it back to the original owners or sell it. But I was going to ask about whether it really could be sold, because I had been involved in some of the -- when we built this last pavilion, the Ivan Allen Pavilion, the pavilion we wanted to build was slightly bigger than the circle that had been originally exchanged. And I had to get involved in helping acquire land somewhere else the DOT [Department of Transportation] wanted, and exchange

it for that. They wouldn't let us just purchase it.

**FRANK JONES:** Well, you know all about it, then.

**QUESTION:** Well, I know that can be a different procedure. The DOT is pretty good about finding other property that you can purchase and then exchange.

**FRANK JONES:** Exactly.

**QUESTION:** Well, all right, so that's how the Great Park Authority came into being. With Governor [George] Busbee?

**FRANK JONES:** Well, the General Assembly, at the urging of Governor Busbee, passed an Act establishing the Great Park Authority, and then Governor Busbee, who was a long-time friend of mine, called me and asked me if I would serve on the Authority and also be the Chairman of it. And that was in early 1980.

**QUESTION:** So the people in the General Assembly in early 1980 really thought this was an opportunity to develop a park, an outstanding park.

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I suppose they did. Now, they gave us a legislative assignment that was virtually impossible to carry out. They told us to come up with a plan that, in effect, would be a wonderful plan from the standpoint of transportation, recreation --

**QUESTION:** Yes, I noticed that.

**FRANK JONES:** -- housing, open space, cultural, social and economic activities and so forth. And that was, as I say, an almost impossible undertaking. But we made a very valiant effort, and we came up with what I thought was, with the assistance of staff, of course, a highly imaginative plan that would have put a performing arts center as sort of the featured attraction of the whole 219 acres. And would also include, hopefully, the Carter Presidential Library.

**QUESTION:** Well, this is -- first of all, you mentioned in the speech that you were new to Atlanta.

**FRANK JONES:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** So, how did you manage to get yourself involved in something as lively, shall we say, as this, as a newcomer to the city? Well, you were from Macon so you weren't from that far away, right?

**FRANK JONES:** My wife kept asking me that same question. I had practiced law in Macon for a good many years, and I had joined the law firm of King & Spalding in 1977, and as I said, Governor Busbee was a friend of mine, and I told him once, I would like to do some non-controversial civic service when the opportunity presented itself. And he has laughed about this many times – he tossed a very hot potato in my lap.

**QUESTION:** He surely did. But when the Authority came up – do you remember other people that were on the Authority with you?

**FRANK JONES:** Yes, I remember in particular, Larry Gellerstedt, who is one of the great civic leaders of Atlanta of this generation. And there were others as well. A total of seven altogether.

**QUESTION:** So would the records of the Authority be probably part of the state records, at the state archives? Were they turned over for that? And kept by the state?

**FRANK JONES:** Yes, and I've got some additional records myself, including the plan that we came up with at the end of 1990.

**QUESTION:** Well, perhaps you will one day deed those to the Carter Library, too, to round out –

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I'd be glad to do that.

**QUESTION:** -- what we have here about that. When you talked about – the Authority came up with an idea for a performing arts amphitheater? That surprised me too, because during the time that I've been here, the neighborhoods have been adamantly opposed to having any sort of performance type venue in the park – parking being one of their main issues. They point to what happens sometimes at Piedmont Park, to the neighborhoods around Piedmont Park, when they have large festivals there.

So when the Authority proposed that use for the land in the park, did you

get opposition from the neighborhoods?

**FRANK JONES:** Yes. Bear in mind that while we were instructed to take into consideration the view of the neighbors, that was not the sole criterion. We were charged with the responsibility of trying to come up with a plan that would be in the overall best interest of the people of Atlanta and the citizens of Georgia.

**QUESTION:** It's a pity that some of that didn't happen, because I do know that there's a great deal of problems raising money for the park now, and one of the reasons is because it's not perceived by many of the corporations in Atlanta as being a true city park; it's perceived as being used mostly by the neighborhood. So if some of the things you and the Authority had come up with had come to pass, it probably would have been viewed more as something of an enhancement for the city of Atlanta, don't you think?

**FRANK JONES:** Probably. It was really sort of a once in a lifetime opportunity. As I recall, Piedmont Park, which is probably the largest park in Atlanta, is about 180 acres. This was 219 acres within about a mile or a mile and a half of downtown Atlanta. And it was a golden opportunity to come up with something really imaginative that would be in the best interest of Atlanta and, as I said, the entire state of Georgia.

**QUESTION:** Where did you envision the amphitheater?

**FRANK JONES:** Probably where the Carter Presidential Library would up.

**QUESTION:** I see, so this would have been on the property here. You said even as early as 1980 discussion was taking place about it as a possible site for the Presidential Library. I didn't realize that; I had thought it was in, like, 1983, 1984.

**FRANK JONES:** No, no, it was much earlier than that. Let me sort of finish that plan. We gave a report to the General Assembly, and among other things, we asked that they appropriate \$370,000 so we could continue our studies. Both Houses passed very complimentary resolutions about our work, but said the state didn't have any money, and told us to forget about this all-encompassing mandate that we had originally received – and this was in January of 1981 – and instead, to focus all of our attention on trying to persuade President Carter to locate the Carter Presidential Library on the property.

By that time, President Carter had been defeated in his race for reelection, and so the location of the Presidential Library moved forward as an active item

on his agenda.

**QUESTION:** Do you feel that the General Assembly felt that by doing so – I know, of course, having the Presidential Library here was attractive for many reasons – but was one of those reasons perhaps the use of federal funds for the development of something, a parkland, around it?

**FRANK JONES:** Well, bear in mind that the way it worked is that the cost of the Library, which I think was about \$25 million dollars, had to be raised entirely from private sources, and it was only after that was done and the Library was completed that the federal government then took over responsibility for the maintenance and operation. I think clearly, the General Assembly thought that would be a fine thing for Atlanta and Georgia.

**QUESTION:** To have that.

**FRANK JONES:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** Well, of course, as we know, the federal government now only provides the upkeep on one of the buildings of the five buildings out here, and they provide about twenty percent of the cost of operating the grounds; the rest of it we raise from private –

**FRANK JONES:** Private [simultaneous speakers].

**QUESTION:** So that's been ongoing. But in any case, the city of Atlanta doesn't have to put any money into it.

**FRANK JONES:** Right.

**QUESTION:** You had something in here about a story that you were going to tell. You didn't tell the story; you just said, 'tell the story' – about when you brought President and Mrs. Carter out here for the first time to look at the property in 1981 – February, 1981 – about encountering a young couple in a Volkswagen.

**FRANK JONES:** Let me tell you about that. We first met in a conference room at King & Spalding, and there were a large number of people, including President and Mrs. Carter, Charles Kirbo, and Secret Service agents and others. And we then got into a group of limousines – about six or eight – and I was asked

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to sit in the first of those. And to sort of brief President and Mrs. Carter about the property on the way over.

And we drove up through -- the streets at that time were in deplorable condition, and there was kudzu everywhere. But we drove up and came to sort of a level area, about where the Carter Presidential Library is located today, and it was a beautiful, warm, February day. And there was a little Volkswagen sitting there. And so the limousine -- the set of limousines -- pulled up in sort of a semi-circle, and President and Mrs. Carter and Secret Service agents and numerous of us got out and began to advance toward the Volkswagen.

And I saw first one head and then a second head pop up. And obviously, they had been having an amorous encounter. And I always thought that was amusing.

**QUESTION:** Matter of fact, this property continued to be popular for that for a while, until our security started getting a little strict about that.

**FRANK JONES:** But I turned to Kirbo and I said, "You know, that college student, he gunned the Volkswagen away, and he's going to go home and tell his parents a story tonight that nobody will believe." [Laughing.]

**QUESTION:** That's true, that's true. Now, was there any indication that early -- this was February 1981 -- that the neighborhoods would oppose the Library as strongly as they came to?

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I didn't perceive that the neighborhoods opposed the library so strongly as they did any road that would go to the library. That was where the major opposition developed.

**QUESTION:** Okay. I know that I had been told -- I wasn't here then, but that there were all kinds of signs that went up for a while saying, "Build It In Plains, Not In Atlanta." Was that because they just perceived the library as being a reason for the road?

**FRANK JONES:** Yes. They were -- I don't think there was much opposition to the Presidential Library as such. But there was bitter opposition to anything that smacked of being an interstate highway or a major highway coming across the property.

**QUESTION:** Even the parkway that you proposed, they opposed that as well?

**FRANK JONES:** Oh, good Lord. President Carter approved this location for the Library, as I recall, in the summer of 1981. And there then was a lot of discussion thereafter about a proper roadway to serve it. And eventually, a plan was developed by President Carter and by Emory University and others that called for a modest parkway, I would describe it, to come over and serve the Presidential Library.

And our Authority was asked to consider that, and either to approve it or disapprove it. I don't think our action would have been binding, but they wanted to know what the authority felt about it. And so we called another public meeting, and I'll never forget it – it took place on January 15th, 1982, at the World Congress Center, and I believe it was the worst day in the modern history of Atlanta. There was ice everywhere, snow, cold – and I told Annie, my wife, I said, "There won't be a corporal's guard." But we got down there and there were over a thousand people. And as best I could tell, 99 percent of them were opposed to this road.

And parents had children with placards, you know, who were walking up and down. And virtually every local politician got up and denounced it, with the exception of Mayor Andrew Young. And I thought he very courageously pointed out why this was a good thing. But it was an intensely hostile audience.

**QUESTION:** Why? I mean, what was their objection to the parkway?

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I think that it was a movement that sort of built on itself. Over a period of years, they had developed this intense dislike of any sort of highway across the property. And they viewed the Presidential Parkway as simply being the latest chapter in that, if you will.

And we had to actually vote on this in the presence of a thousand people, all of whom were against it. And after discussion, I called the question. And the Authority unanimously voted to approve and endorse this road, and that it be called the President Parkway.

**QUESTION:** Well, I know that one of the things I have been told since then, by some of the people in the neighborhoods, was that they didn't want neighborhoods split by a road. But when you look at the way the parkway would go, and ultimately did, the old Fourth Ward was the major ward that would be affected by that, and they were in favor of the road. So the neighborhoods that were the loudest about it were not the ones that were going to have their neighborhoods split by the road.

**FRANK JONES:** Let me say this, Kay. I never detected that there was really strong opposition to the Library or to what President Carter was trying to do. But there was a deep distrust, on the part of the neighborhoods, of DOT.

They felt the Department of Transportation had not leveled with them and that it was unreasonable and arrogant.

And so much of the bitter opposition that manifested itself at that meeting at the World Congress Center, that I just described, and in other ways, was because of the neighborhood's feeling the DOT was not fair and had simply acted in a way that was contrary to the public interest.

**QUESTION:** But they did put President Carter in the camp with DOT, and it made – at the time that I came here, some of the public speeches that were being made in neighborhood groups, some of whom I had to visit, were quite angry toward President Carter himself. They had transferred that anger from this bureaucratic department to a person, I guess.

**FRANK JONES:** You might say he was an innocent victim.

**QUESTION:** Exactly. Exactly. It's interesting to me that the roadway that the authority proposed in 1982 was exactly what ended up being built. Exactly. Took – it was finally built in 1994.

**FRANK JONES:** And as you know, we had litigation afterwards.

**QUESTION:** Litigation after litigation. I came in 1986, and I've worked with Terry Adamson, but in the end the neighborhoods think it was their idea.

**FRANK JONES:** Yeah, well, good for them, let them think that.

**QUESTION:** That this parkway was what they had – somehow they have it that DOT was going to do something vastly different than this parkway, and that they were the ones who, through litigation, got it to be this parkway. So I find it very interesting that actually you, the authority, were the ones who proposed the parkway just as it is.

**FRANK JONES:** Well, at the time I made this talk, the litigation was still in progress. And I expressed the opinion, whether I say it in this paper or not, that the litigation would be unsuccessful, and that eventually the Presidential Parkway would be built. And of course that's what happened.

**QUESTION:** Eventually, they reached a compromise on it, too. After Governor [Zell] Miller entered, he told Commissioner Wayne Shackelford – and there was a different mayor in – that it had to be settled. But also, the

neighborhood leadership had changed. A lot of new people had moved into the neighborhood, so that the people who had fought it over the years were no longer in the majority. And that helped a bit. But there were some that were quite fiery in their opinion.

**FRANK JONES:** Happily, the act creating the Great Park Authority had a sunset clause, and we ceased to exist as of, I believe, July the 1st 1983.

**QUESTION:** Well, if the great park had come to be in something other – there was a great deal of land other than that being used by the Presidential Center now. How was it envisioned that the rest of it would be used after the Library had taken up the portion it was going to use?

**FRANK JONES:** Well, in the original plan that we came up with, we included a recommendation about a performing arts center, a Georgia Hall of Fame, and various other things - I've sort of forgotten the details. But ultimately, when we made the recommendation about the Presidential Parkway, to serve the Presidential Library, I believe by then, our concept was that most of the rest of the property would either be used for recreation, or conceivably for some housing. And that was what we contemplated then. But bear in mind, we had no money and really no power to do anything other than to make recommendations.

**QUESTION:** When the great park was being discussed, prior to President Carter having his library here, when all of these other uses of it – the amphitheater and other things – were being talked about – was this to be a state park?

**FRANK JONES:** I believe so, yes, because we were acting under a mandate from the General Assembly of Georgia and so I think it was contemplated it would be a state park.

**QUESTION:** I see. Well, now it's all leased to the City for 99 years to be a city park, and of course the city has no funding to do anything – to do anything with it. You were involved in the litigation to the extent that you were a witness?

**FRANK JONES:** Right.

**QUESTION:** And that was in the 1980's?

**FRANK JONES:** That was in about 1983, 1984. Well, according to my notes here, a neighborhood group that called themselves CAUTION filed a suit in  
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federal court in the fall of 1984. And that was the proceeding in which I had to testify as a witness. And among the things that they wanted to bring out through the media was that Governor Busbee had not attempted to interfere in the functioning of the Authority, and that was entirely correct, and I so testified.

**QUESTION:** Well, when was the first knowledge that you had that President Carter wanted more than just a Presidential Library, more than just a depository for papers and a museum?

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I think I became aware that – in 1982 he became a Distinguished Professor at Emory University. And in consultation with then-president Jim Laney and others, the idea of The Carter Center was born. And I had nothing to do with all of that, but my recollection was that originally The Carter Center, as it came to be known, was located in one of the buildings out on the Emory University campus. But I was not at that time involved in any way.

**QUESTION:** You became involved with The Carter Center again at what point? You've been involved for some years now.

**FRANK JONES:** Yeah. I became involved later in the 1980's, when the Board of Counselors was created. And I was appointed to the Board of Counselors, and I attended a good many of the quarterly meetings that took place at The Carter Center. My recollection is The Carter Center was completed sometime in 1986, or thereabouts?

**QUESTION:** That's correct, yes. But you've been on the Board of Trustees for a while now, have you not?

**FRANK JONES:** Right. Now, what happened is – I don't have the exact date, but I was a Trustee of Emory University, and am now a Trustee Emeritus. And in the 1990's, there was a reorganization of The Carter Center, and a formalization, as I've called it, of the relationship between Emory University and The Carter Center. And I was in the smaller group, as a representative of Emory, that tried to work out those details.

And that resulted in an agreement between President Carter and Emory University that there would be a Board of Trustees composed of 22 persons – President Carter, Mrs. Carter, and then ten other Trustees each, designated by either President Carter or by Emory University. And I was appointed as one of the original ten trustees from Emory University after that reorganization.

In addition, it was agreed that there would be an Executive Committee that would consist of President Carter, Mrs. Carter, and three persons each designated by President Carter and by Emory University, and I was one of the

original members of the Executive Committee.

**QUESTION:** Were you a member of the Board of Trustees at Emory University at the time President Carter became a Distinguished Professor there?

**FRANK JONES:** No, I was not. I didn't become a Trustee of Emory until, I think, 1990.

**QUESTION:** 1990. The reason I was asking was I had talked with Dr. Laney for a while, and he reminded me that not all of the Emory Board of Trustees were as enthusiastic about having him there or his institute there as others were. But that's the academic environment for you. To have open and free dissent.

Is there anything else that you can tell us surrounding the acquisition of this property, the building of the Presidential Library, your earliest association with President Carter, that would just be an interesting bit to add to the record? So often, we have written records that tell the facts. And one of the major uses of oral history is to expand upon those facts, and sometimes with anecdotes or with impressions that a person has had.

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I remember particularly, sometime in the 1990's, after I became a Trustee and a member of the Executive Committee, serving as a member of a small working group that was asked to re-examine the mission of The Carter Center, and to attempt to come up with a clearer definition of just what The Carter Center was, what it was trying to do.

We had a number of meetings, and I remember that Hamilton Jordan served as a sort of a facilitator. And he did an excellent job in that respect. The Carter Center was doing wonderful work, but it was very eclectic in nature. It seemed that a new undertaking was being launched almost every month.

And so President Carter and others realized that in order to maximize the effectiveness of The Carter Center, it was probably necessary to be more focused, if you will. And I recall that at those meetings, the more we talked, the more two ideas emerged. And that is the two things that The Center was best equipped to, and President Carter was best equipped to provide leadership for. One was world peace, in all of its various ramifications. And the other was world health. And of course, that includes mental health, which has always been a great love of Mrs. Carter's.

And so we – that small working group happened to develop a more focused mission statement, if you will, that emphasized those two concepts of peace and health.

**QUESTION:** I believe that was around 1996, 1997?

**FRANK JONES:** That's sounds about right --

**QUESTION:** -- when all of that occurred there. That was some good work, in my opinion. We did have some growing pains there for a while.

Working with President Carter, many people that I've talked with describe him as being an extremely focused individual that once he makes up his mind that this is a course of action that he's going to take, that he doesn't waver, that he stays focused on that. Has that been your experience with him?

**FRANK JONES:** Yes. President Carter and I have become very good friends in the course of the last ten or fifteen years, through The Carter Center. I served -- up until this last fall -- I served for three or four, five, years, as Chairman of the Finance Committee. And when I first was asked to do that, frankly, I had great difficulty understanding the financial statements. They were very complicated, and many pages would be given to us.

And at that time, Iris Frank was the member of the staff who was primarily responsible for those statements. And I told Iris, I said, "We've got to get something I can understand, because otherwise I don't feel like I can effectively present the financial reports." And she agreed. And so she and I worked on it quite a bit, and always with the idea towards simplification.

And so eventually, we came up with the four-page format. The first page -- this would be for the annual report and each interim report -- the first page would be about two or three or four paragraphs that contained a narrative summary of the revenues, the expenses, the net and so forth, and that sort of told you the whole story, if you didn't want to read any more. And then the second page was a summary of operation as compared to budget, for both programs and operations. And then the third and fourth pages were more detailed information about programs and about operations, which was unrestricted.

And I remember that after we did all of that, and I then presented that at the first meeting, President Carter listened intently, and he then smiled, and he said, "You know," he said, "This is the first time I've ever understood the finances of The Carter Center."

Which I'm sure wasn't true, but I appreciated him saying that.

**QUESTION:** They were complicated, with all the different kinds of grants that come in. I didn't envy Iris the job she had to do, to keep all of that straight.

Well, you've given some very interesting information here. I noticed you

said that President and Mrs. Carter came over and looked at the property, and you mentioned Mrs. Carter several times. Have you gotten to know her as well as President Carter?

**FRANK JONES:** Yes, and I have great admiration for her also. I – my dealings with President Carter, with respect to The Carter Center, have been more numerous than they have with Mrs. Carter. But she of course, as you know, is extraordinarily faithful as a Trustee and as a member of the Executive Committee. She rarely ever misses a meeting. And so it's been a pleasure to work with her as well.

**QUESTION:** Well, I think we've covered most of it, unless you had other things you wanted to add to this, because I'm not always sure of what more to ask.

**FRANK JONES:** Well, I guess the one other thing I would say is what an honor and a pleasure it was for my wife Annie and me to go to Oslo [Norway], at the invitation of President Carter, and to be present when he received the Nobel Peace Prize on December the 10th, 2002. It was a wonderful trip.

And the only bad feature of it is that we arrived in Oslo on the morning of December the 9th, and our bags didn't get there for about a day and a half.

**QUESTION:** Oh, my goodness.

**FRANK JONES:** And in fact, the awards ceremony was, as I recall it, at 1:00 on December the 10th. And they still were not there by December the 10th. And so about two hours before the ceremony, we were finally told by the concierge at the hotel that we would have to go buy clothes if we wanted to go. And so we both struck out in different directions. And happily, a men's store was able to outfit me and a women's store was able to outfit Annie, and we were able to attend the ceremony.

**QUESTION:** Well, it was good luck that you were where you could get to stores that had the right clothing [laughter].

Well, so there were receptions and all, entertainments, that went along with the awards ceremony.

**FRANK JONES:** It was really a wonderful – there was a small reception that President and Mrs. Carter hosted on the evening of December the 9th. I went in my khaki pants and white tennis shoes and so forth. And I recall that Willie Nelson was there, and my wife just loved Willie Nelson. And it seems his

wife's name is Annie, too, so they just hugged each other.

And then on the 10th, of course, the awards ceremony at mid-day, and then that afternoon President Carter was interviewed live on CNN; that went worldwide. And then the next day there was a luncheon at the U.S. ambassador's residence which was quite nice. And then that evening, the last night we were there, the concert at the Spectrum, that seats about eight thousand people – it's the loudest noise I've ever heard in my life, but it was quite a grand evening.

**QUESTION:** Well, thank you once again for being willing to do this and make this a part of the record. What the process is now is that Martin Elzy over at the Library sends this off to a transcriber. The transcription will be sent to you. You can make any alterations that you want to make or add to it, correct anything in there. And along with the transcript will be a deed of gift.

And when the transcript is finally as you want it, if you would sign the deed of gift that allows it to be used by researchers. If there's any portion of it that you would like to restrict for some period of time, you have the right to do so. Of course, as historians, we hope that you don't do that.

**FRANK JONES:** Could I tell you one other anecdote?

**QUESTION:** Please do.

**FRANK JONES:** We've been down a couple of times to Plains, to hear President Carter teach Sunday School. And I've found his lessons to be intensely interesting. The first time we went, my wife and I, we took our twelve-year-old grandson, who lives in Macon. And President and Mrs. Carter saw us in the sanctuary during Sunday School and were kind enough to invite us to have lunch with them after the church service.

And lunch took place at another Baptist Church in Plains that was having some sort of a commemorative occasion. And so we accompanied the Carters, and there was a long table – and it happened that my wife and my 12-year-old grandson and I were directly across from President and Mrs. Carter. And my grandson and President Carter engaged in a lively conversation about various things – the Atlanta Braves and who knows what else. And finally – President Carter was extremely gracious to my grandson. And finally at one point, my grandson leaned up and whispered in my ear, and said, "Poppa, I can't think of anything else to talk about."

**QUESTION:** Oh, my goodness [laughing]. Okay, he was in awe, but he'd reached the end, huh?

Well, thank you again. Let me turn this off now.

**[*End of recording*]**