

up as a child, my parents always taught us to always feel like you're no better than anybody else. And that any time we could help anybody to always offer our help without anyone asking for help. And also, we were always taught to be forward, not to hesitate at any time and not to hold back. If you didn't understand anything, then ask. And if we meet someone, speak to them whether they spoke to us or not. And this is the way my mother always was. She was always a friend to everybody. Everybody knew her. I don't think she could travel anywhere, or any little town, Wewoka or Holdenville, Seminole, and all these little towns where they didn't know her. "Hello, Elizabeth." "Hello, Mrs. Fish." There was time when we walk into the bank and by accident one of these tellers would say, "Hello, Elizabeth," and I would just go on, because they tell me I look exactly like my mother which is a great compliment to me. And I want to walk in those footsteps also. I feel like she has done wonders for our family. She has brought--what we are today is what she made all of us. I came from a religious background. My mother was a Christian and she raised all of us to be Christian. We went to church every Sunday no matter what the weather conditions may have been. We never missed Sunday School or church. And after, the reason why I said my grandmother's name was Wise Coker was that my mother's father died a month before she was born. And later on then in life, my grandmother remarried, Walker Wise. And later on he became a preacher. They tell me that he wasn't educated at all. But he knew the Bible very well. And I remember my mother telling me that at times that he would ask her to come and read a portion of the Bible. He would quote a scripture and tell her to read it. And she'd read it. And he'd say, "Thank you," and he'd go on from there. And present his sermon. And where we were educated, we automatically take our pen and paper and write all this