

DavidWooten_TerriMasterson_12282

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[00:00:00] **Lemley:** I am recording. Okay. And, um, so I'm going to read this in real quick. My name is Tasha A. F. Lemley, representing Urban Green Lab and Tennessee State University. The date today is Thursday, December 28th, yes, 2023, and the time is approximately 1051 a. m. I'm at City Road Chapel in Madison, Tennessee, for the purpose of taking a brief oral history of David Wooten and Terry Masterson.

[00:00:26] Could you both say and spell your names?

[00:00:29] **Masterson:** Terry Masterson, T E R R I M A S T E R S O N.

[00:00:35] **Wooten:** David Wooten, David, D A V I D, Wooten, W O O T E

[00:00:42] N.

[00:00:43] **Lemley:** T E

[00:00:44] **Wooten:** yes,

[00:00:45] **Lemley:** Yes.

[00:00:46] **Masterson:** yes, I'm sorry.

[00:00:48] **Lemley:** I'm sorry. We're here in Madison, like,

[00:00:59] **Masterson:** I was [00:01:00] born right here in Madison, Tennessee, like a mile from where we're sitting, and um, at, literally on Dew West Avenue, which is probably the next main street down the road, on, um, in Nashville Memorial Hospital on Dew West. And it's no longer there, but the building is there, I think, still. Uh, but that's where I was born, and that was in 1966.

[00:01:26] **Wooten:** And in 62, I

[00:01:27] was born in East Nashville,

[00:01:30] uh, follow the street, uh, born in General Hospital. Uh,

[00:01:36] **Masterson:** There

[00:01:36] **Wooten:** been here all my life. That's true.

[00:01:39] **Lemley:** okay. And tell us a little bit, you know, a little bit about your parents.

[00:01:45] **Wooten:** Um, my mother was a wonderful woman. Uh, she raised five kids.

[00:01:50] Uh, four brothers and a sister. Uh, great lady. Worked hard. Uh, her name was Shirley Mae Reeves. [00:02:00] She died early of age of cancer at age 39. And I was just a kid and my brothers and sisters, uh, but a wonderful woman. My father had passed away when I was seven in a car wreck. So, uh, I was pretty much raised without parents.

[00:02:18] I mean, from that time on.

[00:02:24] **Masterson:** father, Winford Bolin Jr. was a metro police officer and, uh, and uh, and and and Policed here in Madison and, um, policed this one, actually, David, and then across the street they used to drag race, and he was one of them that drag raced, and at the Madison Square

[00:02:44] **Wooten:** The old Charlie's parking lot, yeah.

[00:02:46] **Masterson:** and my dad used to have to chase him down, but, um, and my mom was Sandra Warren, she was from Madison, went to Madison High School, um, they met across the street at Madison Square, um, Shopping [00:03:00] Center, my mother worked, uh, At a little place called, um, The Lazy Susan.

[00:03:06] my dad was eating It was a little restaurant. But, they were in high school. They both went to Madison High School. I don't know why I said my mom, but my dad, my dad went to Maplewood and my mom went to Madison.

[00:03:17] And, uh, she passed when she was 28 years old from a brain aneurysm. I was nine.

[00:03:23] And my father subsequently took my younger sister and myself back to his parents. And, uh, home to live. Which is here in Madison as well. Which is where I lived the rest of my life. Um, until I was grown. And, uh, on

Westchester. Uh, just right down the street. Ended up being a candy striper at the same hospital right down the street.

[00:03:48] Again, where I was born, um, I ended up going to Barber College right across the street from where we sit. We're looking at Walgreens Pharmacy right now. That used to be the International Barber [00:04:00] and Style College. In 1988, I went, I went there to become, learn how to become a barber and cut hair. They, they later moved to Madison Square Shopping Center, where I think

[00:04:13] **Wooten:** across the street there.

[00:04:15] **Masterson:** believe they

[00:04:16] **Wooten:** they are.

[00:04:18] **Lemley:** know a lot of people who grew up here? Okay.

[00:04:22] **Masterson:** Yeah, we,

[00:04:24] We,

[00:04:24] we know a lot, we have a lot of the same friends, especially David. David more than, David knows everybody. I mean, he went to school with everybody, and he's of that age that

[00:04:35] **Wooten:** Yeah, a lot of my people are still around. Uh, everybody seemed to not, what you say, die off and go away. Most of them still live here, and I see a lot of them each and every day.

[00:04:48] **Masterson:** parents bought homes here, and that's how a lot of us, Kids have stayed in Madison. Our parents, you know, bought homes

[00:04:55] **Wooten:** here. Yeah, my mom and we

[00:04:57] **Masterson:** They bought, yeah, y'all owned

[00:04:59] **Wooten:** own home. [00:05:00] Yeah, lived in it all our lives. Even until the day my mother passed. And, uh,

[00:05:06] It was, uh, it was a good thing. I mean, uh.

[00:05:08] **Masterson:** knew David back

[00:05:10] **Lemley:** then.

[00:05:11] Yeah,

[00:05:11] **Masterson:** we didn't know each, I mean we didn't date or anything, we just knew who each other were. I mean, I was a little younger than David, but I certainly knew David Reeves and his hot rods. You know, we knew all the guys that ran up and down the street in their cars. Yeah, we all knew each other.

[00:05:23] I was in the little brother and sister group from his group. But yeah, we tagged along. We all went to the lake. You know, we all threw frisbee together and,

[00:05:32] **Wooten:** Sure did. You

[00:05:32] **Masterson:** know, knew each other. Like, when I was 16, I think their little group used to go to the liquor store for us. You know, when, you know, we all put in our money and they would go and cheat us out of our money and stuff.

[00:05:44] **Wooten:** We're

[00:05:44] **Masterson:** would, like, cruise the parking lot at Rivergate Mall,

[00:05:47] **Wooten:** Yeah, Johnny's parking lot.

[00:05:49] **Masterson:** know, and all that. But yeah, I knew they

[00:05:51] **Wooten:** Raced all the cars in Madison Square Parking Lot over here across the Chonies.

[00:05:55] **Masterson:** He probably didn't know who I was, you know, but

[00:05:57] **Wooten:** You know, a lot of people think of that, you know, when you think of the, [00:06:00] uh, Chonies parking lot and hot

[00:06:02] **Masterson:** Uhhuh,

[00:06:03] **Wooten:** you think of happy days.

[00:06:04] **Masterson:** Mm-Hmm.

[00:06:05] **Wooten:** It was back in that day, I mean, we actually still had the, we still had the, uh, car hops and all that.

[00:06:11] **Masterson:** that, but, but yeah.

[00:06:12] **Wooten:** hops and all that was still the Chonies here in the parking

[00:06:15] **Masterson:** Mm-Hmm. . Mm-Hmm.

[00:06:16] **Wooten:** And then there was a run of, uh, No, uh, I'd say 100 to 150 hot

[00:06:22] **Masterson:** Mm-Hmm.

[00:06:23] **Wooten:** just cruising real nice and

[00:06:24] **Masterson:** At any given time

[00:06:26] **Wooten:** car is fixed up super sharp,

[00:06:28] **Masterson:** And my Uncle Jimmy played

[00:06:29] **Wooten:** you would look over to your left

[00:06:31] **Masterson:** They had a rock and roll band set up all the time down there too. So there was dancing and music and the kids, the teenagers. It was a hopping spot, the old Shoney's parking

[00:06:39] **Wooten:** lot. Five years running, uh, yeah.

[00:06:41] **Lemley:** And it was illegal?

[00:06:43] **Wooten:** It was illegal, yeah.

[00:06:43] **Masterson:** Well, my dad, uh, wouldn't think so. He would say no and he would chase them all off, you know.

[00:06:48] **Wooten:** Well, they never run us off the parking lot. They just stopped

[00:06:51] **Masterson:** got 'em racing.

[00:06:52] **Wooten:** the racing.

[00:06:52] The racing part was, uh, illegal, you know.

[00:06:55] **Lemley:** But a hundred and a hundred and fifty cars showing, showing off. You're just going

[00:06:58] **Wooten:** Saturday and Sunday night. [00:07:00] Every Saturday and Sunday night, you could always go over there. You know, that's how you are. You know, you have cars propped up here and there. All the hoods up. Everybody checking out this hot rod.

[00:07:10] Checking out that hot rod. Who's got the fastest? Who's got the best looking one? And there was ever a making model of hot rod out there back in the day there.

[00:07:20] **Masterson:** My first one

[00:07:21] **Wooten:** Mine first one was a 70 Chevelle Super Sport. Uh, 454.

[00:07:26] Second was

[00:07:27] a 66 Chevelle Super Sport. And then I had the 68. And then I had the uh, 71 Monte Carlo.

[00:07:35] And four of them cars I had all at one time. Growing up, that's all I spent my money on was my cars, hot rods, and uh, chasing women.

[00:07:48] **Masterson:** I don't know what to say about that.

[00:07:50] **Lemley:** ha ha! Ha,

[00:07:51] **Masterson:** I mean, I know it's all true. I saw it. He's telling you the truth.

[00:07:55] **Wooten:** it. was

[00:07:56] **Masterson:** what they

[00:07:56] **Lemley:** So you guys, I mean, I still think, genuinely, I think of you
[00:08:00] as very cool people, but you, you were really the cool

[00:08:03] **Wooten:** Yeah, we was. I've been popular, I guess. I won't say that.
Maybe I'm stepping out of line a little bit, but,

[00:08:10] **Masterson:** No, he was, he was

[00:08:11] **Wooten:** I had a lot of fun in life.

[00:08:13] I don't deny any of it. was a big laugh, and everything was fine.

[00:08:21] **Lemley:** So, so I'm trying to figure out which direction to go because
you, you've mentioned a couple of things and, and I told you it's going to be a
little weird because we're going to, we're going to talk a lot about weather. Um,
let's just stay where we, where we are there. You're, you've got these summers,
so the hot rod stuff is all happening in the summers or is it year round?

[00:08:37] **Wooten:** No, it was year round.

[00:08:38] **Lemley:** Year round. Okay.

[00:08:39] **Wooten:** hot, it didn't matter. Uh, you had bikinis and women
everywhere and then you might have Look dead cold in the winter, you know,
and the jackets, the stocking cals and gloves and everybody,

[00:08:54] **Masterson:** Yeah, I've seen pictures of it like online. There's some,
there's some, um, some groups like Friends of Madison [00:09:00] and things
like that.

[00:09:00] I think that's what it's called. But anyways, a lot of kids have pictures
of that. We had Hillbilly Day too, right down through here on, down Gallatin
Road. It

[00:09:07] **Wooten:** And that all had to do with the weather.

[00:09:09] **Masterson:** in the fall. Yeah, that was always,

[00:09:11] **Wooten:** Always a fall thing.

[00:09:12] **Masterson:** or something.

[00:09:13] **Lemley:** Hillbilly days in the fall. Okay, so what do you remember about the seasons?

[00:09:17] Because you've got a specific viewpoint, especially when it has to do with classic cars. What, what do you remember about each of the major seasons back then?

[00:09:24] **Wooten:** Was it keeping your car weatherproofed?

[00:09:26] Oh, you know. You got snow. Tennessee, not a whole lot of snow, not a lot of weather here when it comes to that part of it. Uh, You had icy weather. You had different types of tires that you kept on your car during different parts of the winter and summer and uh, People don't think of that, but we really did.

[00:09:47] You know, our hot rod tires was not to be get on ice because they're more It was more of a slick tire. When you get out on the ice and the snow,

[00:09:57] **Masterson:** I didn't even know.

[00:09:59] **Wooten:** them up.[00:10:00]

[00:10:00] So with that said, you know, and then the weather. Oh my lord, you know. It's November, it might be 80 degrees. And then, uh,

[00:10:11] Back

[00:10:11] **Lemley:** Back then or now?

[00:10:13] You

[00:10:14] **Wooten:** never know. You never know. It's uh,

[00:10:16] **Masterson:** straight distinct seasons. Snow every winter.

[00:10:20] **Lemley:** you were a

[00:10:21] **Masterson:** Mm hmm. Um, when I was in middle school, that would have been 77, 78. There was one year, um, I was in the 7th or the 8th grade one winter, rather, that we were out of school for snow days for, um, 30 consecutive, for an entire month, 30 consecutive days we were home from school.

[00:10:41] That was, um, how bad that winter was. And we had to make that up. In, in, in the summertime and we were really pissed about it. 'cause we had to go to school like almost all year round that year. And we were mad as hell, but um, but yeah, we, but we were out in the, um, snow and the ice and like when the [00:11:00] snow would melt away, when we wouldn't have a lot of snow.

[00:11:02] But it would be real icy and we could still, sled sledding was a big thing that we did in my neighborhood and Well, yours too. Yeah. You guys were more with the trash can lids and stuff though, right?

[00:11:14] **Wooten:** go up on Echo Hill and stuff and uh, slide down the

[00:11:17] **Masterson:** Yeah, y'all

[00:11:17] **Wooten:** At a rapid rate of speed. I would go and hope you didn't break your arm or leg before

[00:11:21] **Masterson:** See, those guys had cars and they would

[00:11:23] **Wooten:** would pull

[00:11:24] us

[00:11:24] **Masterson:** pull us up the hills, you know,

[00:11:26] **Lemley:** With the car? Yeah.

[00:11:27] **Wooten:** Yeah.

[00:11:28] **Masterson:** yeah.

[00:11:28] **Lemley:** So you'd be sitting on a sled and they'd pull you up the

[00:11:31] **Masterson:** uh, yeah, Port Hill right down the street and here in Madison. That was our Madison spot. And then Matt Bowman had the truck that would, uh, Yeah, it was your buddy.

[00:11:39] Pull us up the hill and we'd get to the top of that hill and which is over near Skyline Hospital. It's all on the same hill and we'd just sled on down

[00:11:47] **Lemley:** Ten, eleven,

[00:11:53] **Masterson:** Every winter. We were sledding,

[00:11:54] every winter.

[00:11:54] I did every, every year when I was a kid. Uh, 11, 12 years [00:12:00] old. Yeah.

[00:12:00] **Wooten:** More back in, uh,

[00:12:03] **Masterson:** Yeah, yeah, 70s.

[00:12:04] **Wooten:** yeah. there could have been. But, as of today, we don't get a lot of snow. No, no. The kids don't get to play in the

[00:12:11] **Masterson:** years old and I don't think

[00:12:12] **Wooten:** here as we did when I was growing up. Yeah.

[00:12:16] There might be two or three inches every winter, you know. And, uh, on through the months.

[00:12:22] Back then. And now it's not. We

[00:12:25] **Masterson:** We had

[00:12:25] a lot of freezing, icy, uh, slippery, it was bad driving weather. I remember that. I remember there was a lot

[00:12:31] **Lemley:** When you were growing up?

[00:12:32] **Masterson:** I was growing up. A lot of ice.

[00:12:34] **Wooten:** ice storms.

[00:12:35] **Masterson:** Like it would freeze, black ice on the road.

[00:12:38] And I remember my dad worked a lot of car accidents. I saw a lot of, a lot of car accidents in the wintertime back when I was growing up. I just remember, remember that as a cop. on the road. Yeah, yeah.

[00:12:54] **Wooten:** Yeah, it's dangerous. It was very dangerous

[00:12:56] **Masterson:** My dad was an EMT also and he had a side job with
[00:13:00] an ambulance.

[00:13:01] There used to be like private ambulance services that we don't see anymore. But it used to be everywhere. You could like call an ambulance to come get you. And remember that?

[00:13:12] **Wooten:** remember that. Yeah.

[00:13:13] **Masterson:** my dad and

[00:13:13] **Wooten:** somebody always breaking an arm or something. I mean.

[00:13:16] **Masterson:** Then you would call, you know, like, Zippy's Ambulance, and they'd come get you and take you to the hospital.

[00:13:22] My dad said that the um, the liability insurance, whatever, got to be so, too, too high for them. They couldn't, they

[00:13:29] **Wooten:** you can't

[00:13:30] **Masterson:** I

[00:13:30] **Lemley:** So your dad was a cop and drove an ambulance, but then

[00:13:34] **Masterson:** Oh, my dad was something else, man. Shoo wee, we going there? So, daddy played music, also. He was a drummer, and he played music with everybody. Some pretty big people in Nashville, and so we had a lot of, um, famous people in and out of our house.

[00:13:49] Uh, really, seriously. And, um, I lived in a really nice neighborhood here in Madison, and we had we had a lot of country music stars as neighbors.

[00:13:59] Merle [00:14:00] Kilgore, if I could say, was a, I don't know, a neighbor of ours, and he was very instrumental in Nashville at the time, and still today, historically, he's a wonderful person, and he was an excellent neighbor, too, he was a really good guy.

[00:14:15] But, we had Jim and Mary Reeves on one corner, um, of course, um, and they didn't have children, and they, They donated a lot of their time to Chadwell Elementary School, which was the school that I went to and my father

went to. We both grew up in the same house and went to the same school. And my daughter ended up going there.

[00:14:33] In three generations, my father and I had the same 6th grade teacher at that school, right down the street. Mrs. Busey. And her husband was a teacher also at Good Pasture.

[00:14:44] School on due west,

[00:14:46] **Wooten:** Right.

[00:14:47] **Masterson:** right across the street from Memorial Hospital.

[00:14:51] **Lemley:** you've got so many generations of your family in the same area, do you remember any stories they would tell you

[00:14:58] **Masterson:** Wow, so [00:15:00] there was one point when the Cumberland River froze. solid, froze over, and swing, um, the bridge that crosses, the green bridge that crosses, that takes you to Old Hickory from Madison, um, there's a street over there called Swinging Bridge Road that takes you to the lake, to Old Hickory Lake, and that was, there was no green bridge at the time, there was actually a swinging bridge, and so my grandmother and grandfather, all four of my grandparents grew up in Old Hickory, went to DuPont.

[00:15:27] Um, schools over there and just right across the river. And, um, um, so my grandmother was born in 1923 and she was a girl. So, in the 30s, I would say, the river froze over and you could go across it. I think her brothers went across or her dad actually. Went across the river. Yeah,

[00:15:50] **Lemley:** Walked across the Cumberland River.

[00:15:52] **Masterson:** but you actually took a ferry.

[00:15:54] Even in in the regular time, you took a boat across it, you know, or you took swinging bridge, [00:16:00] which was literally a swinging

[00:16:01] **Lemley:** you could walk on the swinging bridge

[00:16:04] **Masterson:** You drove your car

[00:16:05] **Lemley:** drove it. Mm-Hmm. . Okay.

[00:16:06] **Masterson:** Swinging Bridge

[00:16:07] **Wooten:** I remember those things.

[00:16:08] I remember hearing about

[00:16:09] **Masterson:** About Swinging Bridge Road, until you, and I lived on Swinging Bridge Road, which is just right, the road that

[00:16:15] **Wooten:** I remember.

[00:16:16] **Masterson:** old Hickory Lock and Dam, um, which is just, it's less than three miles from here.

[00:16:21] I can almost see it now, I'm looking over there at the river, but, Neely's Bend dead ends into the

[00:16:26] **Wooten:** country.

[00:16:26] Yeah, it does.

[00:16:27] **Masterson:** So, oh, there's another thing. You take this street all the way to the end and there used to be a swimming pool here. Um, it was, what was the name of the swimming pool? Sun Valley?

[00:16:35] **Wooten:** Sun Valley.

[00:16:36] **Masterson:** Yeah.

[00:16:37] **Wooten:** Sure was.

[00:16:39] **Masterson:** Oh, I'm remembering things. We had another public swimming pool in Goodlettsville. And that one, um, we didn't

[00:16:45] go

[00:16:45] **Wooten:** Green something, I

[00:16:46] **Masterson:** Pleasant

[00:16:47] **Wooten:** Green. Pleasant Green, yeah.

[00:16:49] **Masterson:** Uh, it was a little more expensive. This one in Madison was, I think, like 2. 50. We could go and swim all day and they had a concession stand and, um, played [00:17:00] music.

[00:17:00] It was, you know, you could go and smoke cigarettes. It was summertime and the weather,

[00:17:04] **Lemley:** Well, yeah, that's what I was going to ask.

[00:17:06] So, okay, so you've mentioned, I think you mentioned going to the lake when you were younger and then you mentioned swimming.

[00:17:11] **Masterson:** was our thing, yeah, the lake,

[00:17:13] **Lemley:** so what,

[00:17:16] you know, did you do that every year?

[00:17:18] **Masterson:** Every

[00:17:18] **Wooten:** Every year.

[00:17:19] **Masterson:** Oh my goodness, oh yes, every year we're swimming.

[00:17:22] **Wooten:** the weather permitted.

[00:17:23] **Masterson:** Oh, well summer time's here.

[00:17:25] My 3rd, and so Labor Day weekend would wrap up And we were on Old Hickory Lake every Labor Day weekend, probably of my whole life, until like, until like, just a few years ago, I think we did.

[00:17:38] **Wooten:** ours too, we stayed out

[00:17:40] **Masterson:** Birthdays and everything were always, his birthday is the 4th of July. What about that? So, like, I asked him one time, what were you doing on the 4th of July, 1976, it was the Bicentennial. I know what I was 10 years old, and I was at Hermitage Landing Swimming Pool on a camping trip with my [00:18:00] grandparents. We went to Hermitage Landing, which is a,

well, it's Nashville Shores now, is, and there was a campground there and that's where I was, and And they used to have, there used to be concerts there, and that 4th of July was a big, what they called a big one for the sun concert.

[00:18:17] And he said that's where he was on his birthday that year. And I was like, I was there too, you know. And then,

[00:18:23] **Wooten:** Somebody was, somebody was in concert and I

[00:18:26] **Masterson:** And it was Hart, I want to say, on the floating, they had a floating stage.

[00:18:30] **Wooten:** it was pretty neat because, you know, when the weather did permit, we was able to do all that.

[00:18:35] **Masterson:** super well.

[00:18:37] **Lemley:** let

[00:18:37] me have you take your bracelets off. Because I'm hearing them a little bit. Yeah. No, they're cute, but yeah. And then, so when, when was the weather not permitting? Like, when you say that, what do you mean? When was the summer weather not permitting for you to get to swim?

[00:18:52] **Wooten:** Well, you get a lot of rain. Back in my days of [00:19:00] growing up in the summertime, seemed to be a lot of rain.

[00:19:03] Yeah. And, uh, It would make or not make your day, you know, when you would get up, is it going to rain? That's the first thing we would call each other and ask what's happening today with the rain Well, we're gonna you know, because it made our days. We're going to the lake or we Yeah, or we gonna go to the pool today

[00:19:24] **Masterson:** Can't cut the grass if it's

[00:19:25] **Wooten:** cut the grass don't want to cut the grass and

[00:19:30] I'm lost for

[00:19:32] **Lemley:** So you're, so you're saying like, okay, so you'd wake up when you were younger and you go, okay, if it's not raining, we're going to the lake or we're going to the pool.

[00:19:39] **Wooten:** Right.

[00:19:41] is,

[00:19:41] If it's raining, then we gotta find something else to do. And, uh, back in those days, for some reason, we seemed to get a lot of rain.

[00:19:49] Uh, I'm gonna say in the 70s

[00:19:53] **Masterson:** A lot.

[00:19:54] **Wooten:** lot. A lot. And, um, I remember, you know, the weather being a big [00:20:00] factor as I got older here with the flooding and so forth with all the horror it's brought on people and their lives here in Nashville. Does

[00:20:11] **Lemley:** Does that seem different than when you were growing up?

[00:20:13] **Wooten:** growing up? Yes, it wasn't really unheard of back then.

[00:20:16] I never heard of this flooding so bad.

[00:20:19] **Masterson:** We were just, this is an amazing story to think about right now. We were just talking about the tornado that came through here last week, the week before last.

[00:20:28] And that touched down in Madison on Westchester Drive on my street where I grew up. And I remember just, I, I've been saying it all my life. I felt so safe in that house growing up, and so secure. I can remember my grandfather telling me, uh, that, you know, our house is, this is a brick home, and how proud he was of his brick house, and that nothing, and I just knew nothing, I would hear of tornadoes in other places, and we would have tornado watches here.

[00:20:57] Um, but in my mind, they weren't anywhere close, close. [00:21:00] You know, um,

[00:21:03] I remember being really afraid of, of, of storms and all that would be. We used to have a lot of really bad thunderstorms. And, but I always felt really safe in that house. I'm like, nothing's going to happen to me here. And I haven't gone down that street yet since the tornadoes.

[00:21:18] I've heard people say that, that the tornado hit several places on my street, and I

[00:21:23] **Wooten:** just

[00:21:24] **Masterson:** that really, it shakes everything that I ever thought about. I mean, it makes me, it, it scared me to death. Um, I was at my job the other night when that happened, and David was, was here in the church, and um, I was talking to him.

[00:21:39] We, we, uh, sheltered in place and closed the doors and locked down at Wal Mart. And while I was talking to David, he, he said, Oh my God, oh my God. And I thought, oh, this is it. Uh, he said he just saw a big ball of fire come out of the sky

[00:21:54] **Wooten:** Yeah, right here. Right in my view.

[00:21:57] the

[00:21:57] glass doors downstairs, [00:22:00] and I mean to tell you when I say a ball of fire, it was as big as anything. I can't wrap my arms that big, and it just zooms right over Walgreens

[00:22:10] until it faded away.

[00:22:13] think that was? Transformer. I was thinking it blew up, the weather, the storm had blew the transformer.

[00:22:19] **Masterson:** I think he must have saw fire going through those lines. Maybe I

[00:22:22] **Wooten:** I know it was in the air. It was

[00:22:24] **Masterson:** Well, whatever it was

[00:22:26] **Wooten:** find out. I'm not the only one who's seen it. The girl that was in the front seeing

[00:22:30] **Masterson:** Something blue

[00:22:31] **Wooten:** something blue right out

[00:22:33] **Masterson:** Yeah

[00:22:33] **Wooten:** And she has seen it looking at her window also. And, uh, I was talking about, she's like, I've seen it. I've seen it. I've seen it. But I was on the phone with Terry and I was going, Oh, my

[00:22:43] **Masterson:** And that's why I thought that it was, you know, coming down on him and, um, and to beat all the little girl across the street that works in Walgreens. Her husband was one was in the trailer down the street on Nesbitt Drive. And, She had been [00:23:00] talking with him five minutes prior, and he had their little boy, three years in the bathtub and was on top of him and saved him, uh, I think, uh, the other trailer.

[00:23:12] **Lemley:** They made it.

[00:23:13] **Wooten:** The boy and the mother, the boy and the mother made it.

[00:23:15] **Masterson:** But the father, the husband didn't. Her

[00:23:17] **Lemley:** Where was he?

[00:23:19] In the

[00:23:20] **Wooten:** was, with them.

[00:23:21] **Masterson:** He was with them. They were all

[00:23:21] **Wooten:** He was covered up over his mother and his son.

[00:23:24] **Masterson:** he saved their lives.

[00:23:25] **Wooten:** And the little boy said, I seen my daddy lift up.

[00:23:29] **Masterson:** They said the washing machine

[00:23:31] **Wooten:** he was just spinning. And the washing machine was spinning. And when my daddy come down, the little boy seen this. Said when my daddy come down, the washing machine come down on top of him.

[00:23:41] **Lemley:** And this was, this was who? The, the woman

[00:23:43] **Masterson:** Mm

[00:23:44] **Wooten:** that works at the Walgreens area. A

[00:23:45] **Masterson:** woman, she's so

[00:23:46] **Lemley:** It was her husband.

[00:23:47] **Wooten:** husband. Uhhuh.

[00:23:47] **Masterson:** so she, yeah, she came into the Walmart the very next day, I

[00:23:50] **Lemley:** told you this story? Yes.

[00:23:52] **Masterson:** I mean, we knew already, but she came in the next day, and the first thing she asked me was a, she asked about

[00:23:57] **Wooten:** David, about,

[00:23:58] **Masterson:** about my husband here, because he's [00:24:00] in that tent outside,

[00:24:01] **Wooten:** And,

[00:24:01] **Masterson:** and that was what she asked about when she came into Walmart the very next day.

[00:24:06] She said, you know, it was my husband, and I said, I know, I can't believe she was even up and around, and she's only, what, 29 years old?

[00:24:14] **Wooten:** 29.

[00:24:15] **Masterson:** Yeah, she's a very young woman. And um, she was still in shock, but she asked about us, you know, and how was everybody okay over here.

[00:24:24] **Lemley:** I was thinking about you guys too, and just, and I, and I knew you'd be inside

[00:24:27] **Masterson:** But that blew my mind that she

[00:24:29] **Wooten:** called and said, Hey,

[00:24:31] **Masterson:** think about

[00:24:31] **Wooten:** I wanna tell you. Get out of that tent and get in my building.

[00:24:35] **Masterson:** And he said, if there's anybody outside, bring them in there with

[00:24:38] **Lemley:** So Pastor Jay called?

[00:24:39] **Masterson:** Oh, yeah. Oh, of course, yeah.

[00:24:42] **Wooten:** he said, grab anybody you see in that area right there and bring them in with you.

[00:24:45] Because it's coming. And, uh, he was right, boy, it

[00:24:49] **Lemley:** you, did you have anybody out here to grab?

[00:24:51] Yeah,

[00:24:51] **Wooten:** there was an older lady, Miss Connie. She's about 70 years old and she's a homeless lady out here on the streets. And I told her, come on, Miss Connie, come on. And she come running, [00:25:00]

[00:25:00] **Masterson:** here. She wanted to stay. She said, I have

[00:25:04] **Wooten:** Do I have to leave? Do I have to leave? And I'm like, I'm sorry.

[00:25:07] **Masterson:** I can't

[00:25:08] **Wooten:** But I can't leave nobody in the church, you know. And, uh, She's like, I don't have nowhere to go. And I said, I know, honey, but I live in a tent, and I don't even have to go get in my tent myself because the storm has passed already, you know.

[00:25:24] And it was any,

[00:25:25] **Masterson:** She knows. She's a sweet lady that um,

[00:25:28] **Wooten:** at that time was not going to happen anymore. It was over.

[00:25:31] **Masterson:** Yeah, yeah,

[00:25:32] **Wooten:** And, uh, but I felt sorry for the lady, I really

[00:25:36] **Lemley:** do. Yeah,

[00:25:37] **Wooten:** Yeah, I just wanted to take her and hold her and, you know, just stay in the church

[00:25:42] **Masterson:** with her, you know, a lot. And uh, she's, she's all She doesn't have

[00:25:48] **Wooten:** doesn't talk a lot either, that's another thing.

[00:25:51] **Masterson:** Can't get a lot

[00:25:51] **Wooten:** I know we're getting off. Yeah.

[00:25:54] **Lemley:** Yeah, I could ask about her. We could talk about her for an hour because now we're all kind of just like, Oh, our hearts are [00:26:00] hurting. I can see it. Um, okay. So what? When? And okay. So this we've seen a lot of these tornadoes. I mean, you know, 2020 kind of came right through here. Also that tornado. What? Um, where were you guys in 2020

[00:26:14] **Masterson:** Oh, wow. Here we go now. So in April of 2020 we lost our daughter and the pandemic had just come. We were all quarantined.

[00:26:28] um,

[00:26:29] at that time in 2020. And when that tornado happened, we were, we were in White House and your daughter's apartment quarantined when the tornado came

[00:26:37] **Wooten:** through. That's right, yeah,

[00:26:39] I

[00:26:39] **Masterson:** And yeah, that was around this time. And then

[00:26:42] **Wooten:** When it tore Nashville up.

[00:26:43] **Masterson:** Mhm.

[00:26:46] **Wooten:** Overdose. Xanax. It's actually Xanax.

[00:26:50] **Lemley:** yeah. Yeah.

[00:26:51] **Wooten:** She got ahold of one, one of them that, uh.

[00:26:53] **Lemley:** Had fentanyl in it. They say they look, like experts can't even tell

[00:26:58] **Wooten:** difference.

[00:26:58] They can't. They're printed [00:27:00] out so good. And, uh, you know, that was, uh, she was a wonderful lady.

[00:27:06] **Masterson:** We weren't aware, really, she was doing that,

[00:27:09] **Wooten:** That many, she had, I don't

[00:27:11] **Masterson:** She had gained a lot of weight that year, bless her heart, and she was wanting the doctor to give her some

[00:27:19] antidepressants. Um, he had given her, prescribed her some other things, and she knew that she liked the Xanax, and she asked for those. And he said, you know, we'll try these other things first.

[00:27:31] So I guess that she just really, she knew that that helped her anxiety, and that's what she, she bought some somewhere, I think, um, on the street.

[00:27:40] **Lemley:** on the street. could also talk about her, I'm sure, for, um,

[00:27:45] **Wooten:** Ashley. Ashley. Ashley. Ashley Nicole.

[00:27:48] **Masterson:** Ten months later, you know, her brother committed suicide. He hung himself,

[00:27:52] our

[00:27:52] **Wooten:** my son,

[00:27:53] **Masterson:** I'm

[00:27:53] **Lemley:** I'm so

[00:27:54] **Masterson:** Austin.

[00:27:55] **Lemley:** Austin. They

[00:27:56] **Masterson:** Yeah, they were 14 months apart in, in their [00:28:00] age, and they passed 14 months

[00:28:01] **Wooten:** Mm-Hmm. To

[00:28:02] the day

[00:28:03] **Masterson:** the, yeah, nearly to the

[00:28:05] **Wooten:** Mm-Hmm.

[00:28:07] **Masterson:** That was tough.

[00:28:08] **Lemley:** That's unbearably hard.

[00:28:10] **Masterson:** was 20, 2020

[00:28:13] **Lemley:** Mm. Bless you guys.

[00:28:17] **Wooten:** luck in the head.

[00:28:18] **Masterson:** 2012,

[00:28:19] we lost Patrick. He was my son and he was 18.

[00:28:22] **Lemley:** He was only 18.

[00:28:24] **Masterson:** He drowned in a swimming accident. Well, I'm sorry, he was 19.

[00:28:29] **Lemley:** huh. He's always your baby.

[00:28:34] **Wooten:** Yeah, he'll always be your baby.

[00:28:36] **Lemley:** Oh. What was, what were the times like with your kids in the summers when when they were little?

[00:28:44] **Masterson:** Amazing, because I, like, my daughter Jessica, she's the only one we have left now. Um, I brought her home on my 23rd birthday, so her birthday's the 1st of September and mine's the 3rd.

[00:28:55] So, it generally always falls on Labor Day weekend. Labor Day is your, you know, your [00:29:00] first Monday in September. And so, one or the other of our birthdays usually falls either on Labor Day or It's on the weekend, Labor Day weekend, so it's a three day weekend and we always celebrated our birthdays together with a swimming, either at Nashville Shores or the

[00:29:15] **Wooten:** lake. If the weather permitted.

[00:29:17] **Masterson:** weather permitting.

[00:29:19] **Lemley:** Same

[00:29:19] **Masterson:** Same with you and your birthdays, yeah, weather

[00:29:22] **Wooten:** Weather permitting for July. Weather permitting,

[00:29:26] **Masterson:** Yep.

[00:29:28] **Wooten:** Yep.

[00:29:28] We. Yeah, it was always going to the lake, cooking out, doing that. We'd plant it and then the rain would come and spoil everything. Oh,

[00:29:38] **Masterson:** man. Yep.

[00:29:39] **Wooten:** That or it would be so hot at the end of August and

[00:29:42] **Masterson:** You'd have to come in swimming if it was raining. Now, here's the general rule. If it's just raining, you can stay in the water.

[00:29:47] **Lemley:** Which is fun.

[00:29:49] It is fun to get rained on

[00:29:50] **Masterson:** if it's lightning, you have to get out of the water. You know, if you hear thunder, you have to get out.

[00:29:54] **Wooten:** Yeah, I tell the kids, everybody, get out, get out.

[00:29:56] **Masterson:** y'all hear thunder? Everybody would listen for thunder.[00:30:00]

[00:30:00] If you heard the rumble, you had to get out of the water. Out of

[00:30:03] **Lemley:** water, out of the And so you said there's, there was so much rain. It just sounds like, it sounds like every other day. I mean, it's just like, you're always checking.

[00:30:13] **Masterson:** always checking. But not as

[00:30:20] **Lemley:** as much flooding.

[00:30:23] **Wooten:** No, it wasn't as much flooding back then. Back then,

[00:30:26] **Masterson:** unheard

[00:30:27] **Wooten:** was not unheard of. It just didn't happen near as much as it seems to happen today.

[00:30:31] **Masterson:** And I remember being in middle school again in the late 70s, and that was the beginning talk of global warming.

[00:30:38] Just the first time I ever heard of it, I was in my science class in like, uh, 7th or 8th grade.

[00:30:46] Actually, it was Al Gore, um, and actually, he was really big at the time. I mean, everybody knew who he was because his wife, Tipper, that was a whole other thing going on with her and the PMRCs. She was trying to censor [00:31:00] our listening material.

[00:31:01] That was a whole other thing.

[00:31:03] Yes, like fuck super gore, but I'm sorry. I didn't say that we can't do that. Oh, no, we can't do that. But anyway, um, but global warming and I thought what is that? What are we? What are they saying? And I thought that's the craziest thing I've ever heard of in my life. And I think about that all the time about being a kid and remembering my science teacher talking about it and how, how crazy I thought that whole idea sounded.

[00:31:30] **Lemley:** What do you remember your science teacher saying?

[00:31:32] **Masterson:** Um, he was just talking about, um, that there was a theory happening that our atmosphere was, um,

[00:31:41] going

[00:31:42] away, from what I remember, I think. Yes,

[00:31:44] **Lemley:** A hole in the ozone

[00:31:46] **Masterson:** it was it. That was it. And that we were doing it with the, with, um, emissions and whatnot.

[00:31:51] And it, and it slowly started to sink in. And I thought, cause my grandfather would say, it was a bunch of bullshit, you know, they don't know what [00:32:00] they're talking about. And so I guess that's where my ideas were coming from. Like, yeah, you know, cause I really respected my granddad and my dad.

[00:32:07] uh,

[00:32:08] that they, uh, they thought that was a bunch of poppycock, I think my grandfather did.

[00:32:13] But I had a real liberal hippie Uncle Jimmy, who was like, you know, It's so cool, talking, saying, it's real, it's for real, you know. And, but he was also

walking around with this book called The Sugar Blues and trying to tell my grandfather that, you know, sugar, oh, oh no, this was a whole other era, I'm telling you.

[00:32:31] **Lemley:** Yeah,

[00:32:32] **Masterson:** But yeah, it was so cool back then, you know, we were, and it turns out that All of this came about and is really happening today. And my uncle Jimmy was right. Everything he said was right. You know, he was so right about the sugar, about the government, about everything he was trying to say and, and Tipper and Al Gore are wonderful people.

[00:32:51] They are. And now I, as after I grew up, um, And, uh, it was just great to be, you know, again, that was growing [00:33:00] up in the 80s, and, and, you know, that, the Cold War, there we go, we're talking about weather, so we had Ronald Reagan and the Cold War back then, too, but, yeah, I know we got way off

[00:33:12] subject

[00:33:13] **Lemley:** subject there. Yeah, it was a bit of everything. Yeah,

[00:33:18] **Wooten:** Yeah, it was a big thing. Uh, in a section of my life growing up that

[00:33:24] it was, uh, eating away at the ozone.

[00:33:28] It was all the chemicals that we was putting out from the, from the plants, the car emissions, uh, your hot rods. Yeah, my hot rods and all this.

[00:33:39] So this is how they come up with the emissions and your cars had to do certain

[00:33:43] **Masterson:** Oh yeah. All of a sudden we had to go get the damn,

[00:33:46] uh, test. We never had to do that before. When we tagged

[00:33:48] **Wooten:** cars. Yeah, because of global warming.

[00:33:50] **Masterson:** we had to go get the, um, the little stick in the.

[00:33:54] **Wooten:** And now you don't even have to do nothing no

[00:33:56] **Masterson:** just got rid

[00:33:57] **Lemley:** No, they, they just got rid of it again.

[00:33:58] We don't have to do it anymore.[00:34:00]

[00:34:00] **Wooten:** no more. So,

[00:34:01] it's just uh, all that.

[00:34:03] **Masterson:** Yeah, but all that

[00:34:05] **Wooten:** But all that comes and goes. You know how you, they make it such a big deal.

[00:34:10] And then all of a sudden, it's not so big of a deal anymore, you know.

[00:34:15] **Masterson:** of a sudden, it's not so big anymore.

[00:34:22] **Wooten:** Well, the cars now are mostly electric or they're all powered under Can you imagine what it

[00:34:27] **Masterson:** be right now if we didn't, hadn't done all this at this point?

[00:34:31] Probably wouldn't even be able to breathe right now. Oh, I can't even imagine. You

[00:34:34] **Wooten:** think so? I mean

[00:34:36] **Masterson:** it'd be really, really bad if we hadn't, it's been 30, 40 years now of work, you know?

[00:34:44] **Wooten:** know,

[00:34:45] **Masterson:** That could have been really, really, could have been in a, in a bad place

[00:34:48] **Wooten:** I think, okay, so, so guys listening to this interview, forgive me, you're the

[00:34:55] **Lemley:** eating at the Ozone Mountain?[00:35:00]

[00:35:02] Layer is better. That's one of the few things that is better because of some of the work we've done and the car emissions, the cars they're making, even if they're not electric, they're more efficient where we don't have to do those regular.

[00:35:15] **Masterson:** nowadays

[00:35:16] **Lemley:** think, I think the oceans are worse. I think there's a lot of bad

[00:35:20] **Masterson:** That is

[00:35:21] **Lemley:** Uh,

[00:35:21] **Wooten:** There is a lot of bad

[00:35:23] **Lemley:** I think

[00:35:23] **Wooten:** ocean. The water is not,

[00:35:24] **Lemley:** and in Florida it's heating up to something and some terrible temperature and yeah, I mean, I think we're

[00:35:30] **Masterson:** I don't need to hear

[00:35:31] **Lemley:** You don't need to hear about that. We're just gonna, we're just gonna forget about that because I'm not the expert. Um, so, in the summers, when you think about heat, when you were young, you know, you've mentioned a few times, Liz, it was so hot.

[00:35:46] What was, what was so hot like when you were little?

[00:35:51] **Masterson:** Do

[00:35:51] **Lemley:** Do you have a story about a time where, man, this is, this is a hot week or a hot summer?

[00:35:57] **Masterson:** Yeah, uh, I just remember every summer we ever
[00:36:00] had here was hot. Hot, hot, southern, southern summer.

[00:36:05] **Wooten:** You didn't look forward to it a lot of times,

[00:36:07] **Lemley:** it a lot. Really?

[00:36:08] **Wooten:** you didn't, because it was, it was so hot back in the, back in the, the 80s and 90s seemed to be super, super hot.

[00:36:18] **Masterson:** It's just, yeah, our summer's,

[00:36:20] **Wooten:** And now again, summers are really hot. I mean, I think right now they are so hot.

[00:36:25] **Masterson:** A few years ago we had, you know, a hundred degrees every

[00:36:28] **Wooten:** Every day.

[00:36:29] **Masterson:** per month.

[00:36:30] **Wooten:** And that's all in the weather too. It's uh,

[00:36:33] **Masterson:** is, uh, yeah, it's crazy.

[00:36:35] **Wooten:** It's one of the,

[00:36:36] **Masterson:** our summer's

[00:36:37] **Wooten:** El Nino, is that what they call it? El Nino. You know, it's caused so much weather. Situations across the world.

[00:36:47] **Masterson:** I always did, I always

[00:36:49] **Wooten:** Yeah. What

[00:36:51] **Masterson:** I think, uh, growing up we had central heat

[00:36:53] and

[00:36:54] **Lemley:** Oh I

[00:36:55] **Wooten:** No, I didn't. I had the wall units. Yeah, we had to put in the window. Yeah.

[00:36:59] **Masterson:** [00:37:00] Yeah. Well, I lived with my grandparents, they were a little older, you know, so, you know, they, our homes a little A lot of my friends, though, you know, didn't. Didn't have, didn't have central

[00:37:13] **Wooten:** heat. Right.

[00:37:14] **Masterson:** or have air at all. Your neighborhood, like John, my first husband, my ex husband, grew up in the same neighborhood that you did.

[00:37:24] Those were duplex homes over there that he grew up

[00:37:27] **Wooten:** wall heaters.

[00:37:28] **Masterson:** Uh, y'all had, y'all had a single nice home.

[00:37:31] But the ones where my husband grew up were little duplexes and,

[00:37:34] **Wooten:** and There was all wall heaters

[00:37:36] **Masterson:** yeah,

[00:37:36] **Wooten:** there, I remember.

[00:37:37] **Masterson:** Well, I lost, we lost three homes to fire.

[00:37:41] **Lemley:** You did?

[00:37:42] **Masterson:** and um, we almost, he almost died in one, he was in one of them. I did, I lost three homes and he was with

[00:37:50] **Lemley:** What caused those fires?

[00:37:52] **Masterson:** Craziest thing. Um, the, the wall heater was the first one that, I mean the little space [00:38:00] heater.

[00:38:00] Plug in space heater was the first one. And that was, ironically, on Swinging Bridge Road. Ha, ha, ha. In Old Hickory. Um.

[00:38:08] **Lemley:** Electric space heater?

[00:38:09] **Masterson:** space heater. And it caught, uh, bed, uh, clothes on fire.

[00:38:13] **Lemley:** A

[00:38:13] **Masterson:** It was a blanket in my daughter's room. She was just a kid. That traumatized her. Oh. We got out. She and, it was, she and I were the only ones home.

[00:38:21] **Lemley:** was in the bed at the

[00:38:21] **Masterson:** Um,

[00:38:22] she was, yeah, in her room at the time. And it wasn't, she wasn't in bed

[00:38:26] **Wooten:** asleep. she was in her room.

[00:38:27] **Masterson:** And, uh, the door was closed. Um. No, she was in the room. We, she saw the smoke. We had her door closed 'cause she had some rabbits in there and we had closed the door 'cause we had a dog.

[00:38:38] And um, she had thrown her bed clothes off and gotten up and come out. We saw the smoke coming out from under the door. Yeah. And we, and I opened the door and that's when this flames were just came. They came out and just grabbed her and ran out. Um, that was the. That was, that was, that was terrible. That was the second fire she was in.

[00:38:58] And the first one, uh, [00:39:00] traumatized her. Um, she was stuck in the first one. Her father came out the window with her in the first one she was

[00:39:07] **Lemley:** Oh my

[00:39:08] **Masterson:** The first fire was, um, a trailer, uh, My first husband and I had just moved into, um, it was our first little home. Six days we had been there and it was, um, air conditioning unit in the window.

[00:39:22] Um, we had turned the air conditioner on and all of a sudden flames just started coming out of from either side, uh, the wall, a little. What do you call that? Board, a little plaster board just kind of blew off and the flames just shot out and I've never seen anything go up so fast, um, as this, this mobile home.

[00:39:43] Flames just went both directions, and I grabbed my son. He was in his high chair, and we went out the front door, and my husband went to the other end of the trailer to get our daughter, and when he grabbed her, she was um, about four years old. And he, [00:40:00] uh, my son was about a year old, and I had him on my hip.

[00:40:02] He was an amputee, and I had to grab his, uh, prosthesis and take it out with him. So we had his artificial limb, my purse, and him. It was all we got out of there with. And then, uh, at the other end of the trailer, he couldn't come back through. The flames were, were so that John could not come through the, the trailer again.

[00:40:23] So he had to come out the window. And I could see him struggling. to kick that window out, and it wasn't coming out, and, uh, it just wasn't coming out, and I was flippin out. I couldn't believe it. Um, I watched him drag a dresser over there and lean against it and kick with all his might until it came out, and it was a plexiglass window.

[00:40:45] It wasn't glass, and that's when he was having such a hard time, and then the two of them come out that window together, and, well, he He came out first and I thought, what are you doing? Oh, what are you doing? And he was, had enough sense of [00:41:00] mind to know to go out first and to have our daughter jump to him.

[00:41:05] And I thought I would have never, I probably would have killed her, you know, slung her out. Yeah. But he was,

[00:41:12] **Wooten:** Sorry.

[00:41:13] **Masterson:** sorry.

[00:41:13] **Lemley:** We all were gesturing what it was like to throw a four year old out a window to save their lives, that's what happened.

[00:41:21] **Masterson:** thank God her daddy didn't do it, but, uh, and she, she jumped right into his arms and he was the hero that day, but, um, yeah, so that

was another fire. And then, and then in the, in the third fire, um, David and I were living in, um, In our home that, uh, my, it was my family's home and, uh, my aunt had just moved out into, in a convalescence home.

[00:41:43] And we were still in the retirement home and we were still living in the house and, um, I think that a, uh, a homeless person was in the garage because I believe it started in the garage. And, um, I wasn't home. I was, I was, Out that day and I had just come up the street. [00:42:00] I saw the flames and I just knew it was my house.

[00:42:03] I saw fire fighters and ambulances and they had my street blocked off and I ran up the road and sure enough it was my house and it was gone and

[00:42:14] so was David and he had, they got him out. But it was a, that was a terrible, horrifying story that he tells about being locked up in there trying to get out of that burning house.

[00:42:27] He was asleep, you know, when the smoke woke him up, I think, and he,

[00:42:32] **Wooten:** Three quarters of the house had already burnt. And I didn't even know it. I'm sleeping hard and, I get to

[00:42:40] **Masterson:** We had just changed rooms, so he didn't know where he was. We had just

[00:42:43] changed

[00:42:44] **Wooten:** I woke up, when I looked up and looked around me, everything was pitch black.

[00:42:50] And then, uh, I can hear sizzling, I smell smoke, I'm coughing, and I'm thinking, get out of here. [00:43:00] So I, all in a quick matter of just a few seconds, I remember where I was in my bed. I got up.

[00:43:08] and felt the wall and went through the, go to my bedroom

[00:43:11] **Masterson:** What he thought was the door.

[00:43:13] **Wooten:** Well, I thought, well, no, it was the door,

[00:43:14] **Masterson:** Well, we had changed rooms the night

[00:43:16] **Wooten:** the handle. I reached down and felt the handle on the door. But when I felt it, it was so hot. I had to let go.

[00:43:22] **Masterson:** Mm hmm.

[00:43:23] **Wooten:** And then I realized this place is on fire for real. I got to get out of here. So I eased around the wall. Remembering there's a window over here. only to get trapped in a walk in closet

[00:43:35] **Lemley:** Oh my

[00:43:36] **Masterson:** And

[00:43:37] walked

[00:43:37] **Wooten:** walk around it and just in just a matter of seconds got trapped in it couldn't get out and remember now I can't see nothing it is pitch black so this took over everything and I get to the window and when I'm pull the curtain down I grab a hold and I feel the curtain and I pull it Real hard.

[00:43:58] And it comes down, I see a [00:44:00] break of light for a second and it started covering it right up. And then I took the curtain and wrapped it around my hand and started beating on the glass and broke it out. And I hear, there's somebody in there, there's somebody in there. And they come running. And when I got the glass, broke out enough around me there.

[00:44:20] And when I stuck my head out to get air. Two guys grabbed me and pulled me straight out. Took me away from the house a little bit, laid me down, and I'm puking and coughing and gagging. And about that time, that whole bedroom, Whoom! Flames come rolling out them windows and here it come. And I'm going on to a stretcher and down the road.

[00:44:45] And cameras was following us, of course, from the cameramen and the news. And put me in the ambulance and, uh, then I realized

[00:44:56] I was just in a fire. All this happened so quick [00:45:00] and all this, me, from realizing it to getting out the door or the window and getting, putting in an ambulance and driving, starting to drive down the road. This was probably five minutes. It seemed like a long time.

[00:45:19] And I remember getting to Vanderbilt and them saying you are the luckiest man that I know, buddy. In the fire, people. Yes, you were only seconds away from even being here.

[00:45:30] I mean, that was fixing, that fire was exhuming that room right as we, as you was trying to get up and get out. It was taking over.

[00:45:38] **Masterson:** hmm. Oh two thousand and five.

[00:45:44] **Wooten:** Somewhere in there,

[00:45:45] **Masterson:** Mm

[00:45:47] Yeah.

[00:45:47] **Wooten:** Yeah. 23 years. Yeah.

[00:45:53] **Masterson:** hmm. Just about.

[00:45:54] **Wooten:** through a lot. We've been through a lot. I mean. other your

[00:45:57] whole life. We've lived in the weather. We've lived [00:46:00] good. We've had it all and lost it and got it back.

[00:46:07] This last time, uh, was devastating. And speaking of cold and living in the weather, when we was homeless up on that hill in the wintertime. And, uh, you're talking about ten below, maybe not ten below, but

[00:46:26] **Lemley:** You, you actually did. I think it was something like seven, seven

[00:46:31] **Wooten:** Seven below or something. Yeah, I

[00:46:32] **Lemley:** think so. Um, let, let's go there. So you,

[00:46:37] um, you guys

[00:46:41] tell what this. Today is a big day like so we're sitting here between Christmas and New Year's where it's pretty nice weather today It's chilly out

[00:46:50] **Wooten:** It's a little chilly.

[00:46:50] **Lemley:** 40 45 degrees sunny

[00:46:54] and This is a big day.

[00:46:57] Tell me tell me what's happening tomorrow

[00:46:59] **Masterson:** We're [00:47:00] moving into our, our apartment tomorrow. Uh, we've been waiting for, for so long. And, gonna get him out of this tent and up off the ground and in our, in our place finally. Um,

[00:47:12] **Wooten:** long

[00:47:12] **Masterson:** just been a long time,

[00:47:13] **Wooten:** time coming, man. It's, uh. Yeah. Yeah. We fought for this and

[00:47:17] **Masterson:** Moving into our forever home, I think.

[00:47:19] **Wooten:** we are. And, uh, this is wonderful because, uh, last year at this time, we was in a tent

[00:47:28] **Masterson:** a

[00:47:28] **Wooten:** freezing up on a hill in the woods.

[00:47:33] Terry had worked so hard in this one storm that was coming in. It was already cold. Freezing cold outside. And, uh, we got what food we could get together because we knew the storm was coming.

[00:47:47] We got what food we could get together, what, uh, hand sanitizer, propane.

[00:47:54] **Lemley:** It was going to be

[00:47:55] **Wooten:** We're hunkered down because there's a big three day storm coming last [00:48:00] year. And it came.

[00:48:01] **Masterson:** we didn't know it was going to be three days or whatever. We just knew it was, it was supposed to, supposed to snow.

[00:48:07] It was supposed to get real cold and snow tonight. But, you know, we heard that every night was cold and we expected, you know, snow. We didn't really know it was going to be like that though, you know. I didn't have any idea it was going to be like, like it turned out to be.

[00:48:23] **Lemley:** long and

[00:48:23] **Wooten:** cool. Let me tell you though, Terry prepared it, you know. I'm, I'm bound to a wheelchair and I can't walk. So Terry got everything together here. She got this tin and wrapped it with blankets and tarps.

[00:48:35] This way and that way and this way and that way. And sealed up the whole thing. Only to cut a door out in it. And make it to where we could push it back. And then I could push it up in there. And she could push me up into the bed.

[00:48:50] With my handicap. And I, I could get comfortable and she would come back.

[00:48:56] After we got everything in that we prepared for this little storm that was coming, [00:49:00] Terry, uh,

[00:49:02] sewed us up in this

[00:49:04] **Masterson:** tent.

[00:49:05] **Wooten:** She went and sewed us up in this tent all the way back

[00:49:08] **Masterson:** I'm glad we didn't have a fire then, for real, because we sure could have.

[00:49:12] **Lemley:** okay, so you're, you're living in a tent up on a hill. Where were you?

[00:49:16] **Wooten:** Uh, across from Tradewinds, up in the woods. It was, yeah, the Tradewinds camp up on the hill there. And,

[00:49:23] **Lemley:** And you know, you've been hearing from people, the weather's coming, and so you,

[00:49:28] **Masterson:** and everybody's gone. You know, everybody's gone. So it

[00:49:31] **Lemley:** of the campsite's gone.

[00:49:32] **Wooten:** of them's

[00:49:33] **Masterson:** because they were going to these homeless shelters that they were coming and picking them up and taking them to the warming shelters.

[00:49:38] Um, then the police were coming up through there and to tell people about it. But I guess they were scaring some of the homeless people there. Um, uh, who maybe They had warrants or whatever, uh, didn't want to deal with police, or whatever, but they, they knew that the cops had been coming up there so, but that might have been the reason some of them left, but they were coming to let us [00:50:00] know that their warming shelters were picking people up and taking them and they could get on any, uh, bus, WeGo bus, and, uh, not have to pay, uh, a

[00:50:08] **Wooten:** But we didn't want to

[00:50:09] **Masterson:** So we didn't want, I don't know why we didn't want to go, but,

[00:50:13] **Wooten:** me in the wheelchair. It's so cold outside.

[00:50:17] **Masterson:** We were

[00:50:17] **Wooten:** down the hill. We was actually comfortable.

[00:50:20] **Masterson:** of really didn't believe it was going to be that bad, you know. And we were tough. We'd been doing it this long, you know. I say this long, just a couple of months.

[00:50:29] **Wooten:** we went a long time eventually.

[00:50:30] But I just felt like, well, you know,

[00:50:33] **Masterson:** know, I mean, we didn't have any other choice really. It's too much trouble to get, we were really at the end of our rope. The end of our road, and I think we kind of didn't care if we just, we had it in our mind, I think,

that we were going to just die there anyway, I think. Both of us didn't see any other way out. We couldn't get up and down that hill very much longer. Um, my hips were hurting really bad from pushing the wheelchair.

[00:50:59] I couldn't do [00:51:00] it today if I had to because the hips are gone now. And, um, but I was pushing that wheelchair up this terribly slippery, dangerous hill.

[00:51:10] Um, That was just a mudslide

[00:51:12] **Lemley:** Mudslide. You've got maybe some ice already starting and you're trying to get a wheelchair. There

[00:51:18] **Masterson:** were days that we'd push and cry, and push and stop and cry a minute. Readjust, put something under the wheel, cry a little more, push again, get six more inches, do it all again.

[00:51:31] **Lemley:** On a bad day, how long would that take you?

[00:51:33] **Masterson:** On a bad day, sometimes it took us 45 minutes to get from the bottom of the hill up

[00:51:38] **Wooten:** up, to,

[00:51:38] the, to our

[00:51:39] **Lemley:** So you don't want to leave once you get in there? So, you are Okay, so you know this is coming, everybody's taking off, so you're feeling kind of, I would imagine, isolated.

[00:51:49] **Wooten:** Yeah.

[00:51:50] **Lemley:** And then you are Did anybody else stay in the

[00:51:52] campsite?

[00:51:53] **Wooten:** yeah, a couple other people stayed. A

[00:51:54] couple

[00:51:55] **Masterson:** of, there was a couple of other people, um,

[00:51:57] **Wooten:** Stayed.

[00:51:58] **Masterson:** Uh, yeah. Yeah. One or two. [00:52:00] One or two other ones.

[00:52:00] **Wooten:** Most of them went to some family member's house. For the, for the winner, you know, Wayne, his girl, they went to the, his mother's.

[00:52:09] The

[00:52:09] **Masterson:** night, um,

[00:52:10] **Lemley:** You've put blankets all over. So you've taken every resource you have. You cover up the tent. Layer, layer, layer. I

[00:52:17] **Masterson:** And, um, we, uh, we had We,

[00:52:22] I

[00:52:22] don't think we had much, we had a little propane for our little buddy.

[00:52:26] Oh, I'm sorry, little buddy propane heater that we had. And that's what they call it, little buddy. And, um, but we didn't have much of it and

[00:52:34] **Wooten:** no, I think we had only like three or four tanks of it.

[00:52:37] **Masterson:** it. Yeah.

[00:52:38] **Lemley:** The little one with the little green? Yeah. Okay. And, um, one more thing.

[00:52:42] When he said you cut a hole, did you actually cut a hole in, like

[00:52:46] **Masterson:** Yeah, the zipper on the tent was broken.

[00:52:50] So, um, it was just a flap there. So I really had to sew it up.

[00:52:57] **Lemley:** What'd you sew it with? Um,

[00:52:58] **Masterson:** ha ha [00:53:00] ha. That was another, that was another thing. Um, so I figured a way to To take Kroger sacks, and they're really strong.

I didn't know it, and when you pull them and stretch them, and I was just trying to just, I had to have something, and to make something to tie, and I I took two holes on either side, you know, I poked two holes and I'm like, you know, I'm thinking of an Indian teepee is what exactly and my granddaddy I'm Indian and I'm tough and I can do this and I'm thinking of like a bone and you know.

[00:53:37] So

[00:53:37] **Lemley:** what'd you poke the holes with? I

[00:53:39] **Masterson:** the holes with a knife and do a knife and poke the holes and then

[00:53:43] **Lemley:** You stretched these Kroger bags. I stretched the

[00:53:45] Kroger

[00:53:45] **Masterson:** bags and they and I made crisscross loops out of them.

[00:53:49] And, um, and I

[00:53:51] **Wooten:** us in

[00:53:51] one like

[00:53:51] **Masterson:** that,

[00:53:52] I braided us in and then you loosened it up to get back out. And then we tighten back up. But they were little [00:54:00] bows all over the place. And so, but it got frustrating because we had to get out. It was, you know, don't tie all this shit, you know, but

[00:54:07] **Lemley:** So, okay, so you get in there. Okay, you've got the buddy heater. You've got it on. It's, then you're just, you're in a sweat lodge at that

[00:54:14] **Masterson:** definitely. And well, we ran out, you know, um, um, we used hand sanitizer and um, um, you can burn hand sanitizer in a pot. That's what we used for heat most of the time. Alcohol rubbing

[00:54:28] **Wooten:** percent alcohol, pure grain alcohol. You know, like, um, like, Alcohol you rub on a sewer or

[00:54:34] **Masterson:** yeah, just you know,

[00:54:35] **Wooten:** clean an area with. Uh,

[00:54:38] You pour it in a pot until you soak it in toilet paper.

[00:54:40] And

[00:54:41] **Masterson:** And someone just told me, some other homeless person told me to do this. I've never been, this is not me, you know, I was not even, we didn't take the kids camping, you know.

[00:54:53] I didn't want to go to the Girl Scout things.

[00:54:56] I didn't want to do any of this, but it just kind of came to us when we had [00:55:00] to do it.

[00:55:00] **Lemley:** it you soak toilet paper, so you In alcohol. In alcohol, in a pot,

[00:55:04] **Masterson:** can or whatever. Yep. And, and it burns really clean. It

[00:55:08] **Lemley:** it. So I was gonna ask about the

[00:55:09] **Masterson:** at all. You can't even see it burning. It's just a little blue flame, um,

[00:55:13] **Lemley:** lobe. So like, if you've ever been where someone's catering, they've got the little thing under.

[00:55:18] Yeah. And it, it doesn't burn big. It burns real li low. Okay.
Mm-Hmm.

[00:55:22] **Masterson:** Mm-Hmm. . Just like

[00:55:23] **Lemley:** that. And then

[00:55:23] **Wooten:** wouldn't believe how quick it would heat up that little area in there.

[00:55:27] **Masterson:** And we would just like sort of get the, knock the chill out. And then since it was, I don't know, insulated so well, somehow it stayed, it stayed pretty warm. And we didn't have to like keep it running, keep the heat going continuously.

[00:55:37] You know, we could just like knock the, the chill out of the air. And then we, of course we were bundled up under tons of blankets and the body heat, you know. And I had, I had a ton of batteries, um, that we had just been collecting over time. And, and I found that if you put, The old batteries in a bag together, they'll sort of recharge each

[00:55:56] other.

[00:55:57] I didn't know that.

[00:55:59] **Wooten:** it. What? It [00:56:00]

[00:56:00] **Masterson:** I

[00:56:00] don't know why but it does and like when the flashlight batteries would start to go down or I had a little radio That would only play you like, you know, sometimes but when I put them instead of throwing them away I'd put them in a bag and I'm gonna take them all somewhere later on, you know, I didn't want to I just throw them away with everything else, with the rest of our trash.

[00:56:17] So I put them in a bag by themselves. And later on, I just, I don't know what made me reach in to try and, you know, try it out. But, they would work again. So they kind of recharge each other if you put them in a

[00:56:28] **Wooten:** a bag.

[00:56:28] They really

[00:56:29] **Masterson:** So I learned that.

[00:56:30] **Wooten:** You take one and take the old batteries out. And she'd reach in that bag and grab any three of the same batteries and put them in that flashlight or whatever it was. And I want you to know it would work.

[00:56:40] **Masterson:** So that was our main issue, was always with the batteries. We always needed to make sure we had batteries for our lights. And um, Flashlights, and, uh, heat, you know, fuel, um, if we couldn't afford the propane, which was rare, then it was, uh, the rubbing alcohol. And, um, you [00:57:00] know, there was the one night, I think, that he was telling you about, um,

[00:57:05] up the prayer that one particular night.

[00:57:08] I'd had it. I was at the end. I wasn't, I wasn't coming out of the tent. I wasn't going to go do anything and try to, uh, to get any hand sanitizer to burn for. I just didn't care anymore. I was done with it. I was tired.

[00:57:21] **Wooten:** Yeah

[00:57:21] **Lemley:** You were out of

[00:57:22] **Masterson:** Yeah, everything. And so David said that he, he was at trade winds down there. He's panhandling and um, I wouldn't even push him down the hill to go do that.

[00:57:31] I wasn't, I was like,

[00:57:33] Forget

[00:57:34] about it, you know, just lay down. That's what I kept saying. Just lay down, just lay down, lay down with me. Just come up in here and lay down. He's like, you cannot do this, Terry. You know, he came back with, it was amazing. He said that. Well, you tell him what happened.

[00:57:49] **Wooten:** Yeah. Got down to the heat part and, uh, I got money for food and got all that together.

[00:57:55] And I got to thinking, I gotta have heat, man. What am I doing here? I gotta have heat.[00:58:00]

[00:58:00] **Masterson:** He had gotten us some food, you know, cigarettes, what we needed,

[00:58:05] **Wooten:** he got us everything, and uh, I remember I had no heat. So I was sitting there thinking, Oh God, I can't let this lady freeze to death.

[00:58:13] I thought, Lord, what am I going to do?

[00:58:15] **Masterson:** this lady.

[00:58:16] **Wooten:** And this man pulled up in his car, got out of his car, walks over, hands me a five dollar bill, and gets back in his car and drives off. Okay,

[00:58:26] **Masterson:** Well, the thing is

[00:58:27] **Wooten:** didn't go in and buy anything or anything, but I had just prayed to the Lord, will you please just help me with \$5 give, I mean \$5, Lord, to get some meat.

[00:58:38] **Masterson:** And that bottle of alcohol cost 4.

[00:58:41] **Wooten:** cents. And that, man,

[00:58:42] **Masterson:** you can buy alcohol anywhere for 98 cents. But that particular market, which is

[00:58:47] **Wooten:** It was five dollars for that bottle of alcohol and that little bottle of pure grain of pure alcohol Would have burned through the night and got us through and that man pulled up come out hand me a five dollar bill This is only second set to my prayer

[00:58:59] **Masterson:** [00:59:00] and left.

[00:59:00] **Wooten:** And got this car and left didn't go in a store or nothing

[00:59:03] **Lemley:** nothing. So that regular, we're thinking like a drugstore bottle of rubbing alcohol.

[00:59:08] **Wooten:** it was

[00:59:09] **Lemley:** It's not a quart. Maybe it's like a, like a pint or half

[00:59:12] **Masterson:** Yeah, it

[00:59:12] **Wooten:** Yeah, something like that. 4.

[00:59:14] **Lemley:** 4. 99. And so you said that, that'll last you about one of those really cold nights.

[00:59:18] Yeah. Okay. And you were in your chair.

[00:59:21] **Masterson:** We had to

[00:59:21] be

[00:59:22] **Wooten:** was in my chair.

[00:59:23] **Lemley:** How'd you get back up that hill?

[00:59:25] **Wooten:** It wasn't easy. It was hard.

[00:59:27] **Masterson:** I heard him coming, and usually he would, some of the other homeless kids down there, he'd pay him a couple bucks to carry him up the hill, push him up the hill, or

[00:59:34] **Wooten:** If I didn't have it, they wouldn't help me. They would just walk right by me. You don't, when I believe the times that I'm trying to get up this hill, and I'm fighting, and I can't hardly do it, and people just walk by

[00:59:46] **Lemley:** Mm-Hmm,

[00:59:46] **Masterson:** And

[00:59:46] here he came. Someone pushed him up the hill that night. And I heard voices. I heard him coming up the hill. And, and he had bags and I, I, I just, I couldn't get over it. Because I had given up. Completely given up. I was ready to lay down [01:00:00] and, and be done. And he had our food and something to drink. He had water.

[01:00:03] We had to have water. That was another thing. Water. So water, batteries, and fuel for to, to burn was really the main thing. thing every day and, and I think we didn't have any of that that day and I was done with trying to get any of it

[01:00:16] **Wooten:** Right.

[01:00:17] **Lemley:** did you say you need to use the restroom? Okay, let's pause and we will, we will come back.

[01:00:22] **Wooten:** back.

[01:00:22] Alright.

[01:00:22] PART 2

[01:00:23] Better? Yeah.

[01:00:24] **Masterson:** Okay,

[01:00:25] **Lemley:** so I'm recording again and Terry, what I'm going to do is I'm going to set a timer for 45 minutes. So and then that'll let us wrap up at the end and get you out of here in time. So because I know I've

[01:00:35] set a timer for 45 minutes. Okay, it's rolling. So you'll know that'll ring in enough time because if I'm not now it Um.

[01:00:48] And, um, yeah, that lets, that puts my mind at ease, too, because it feels like we get all into these stories, and if we're thinking, like, what time is it? So, that will ring at 1245. Okay. Um, okay, so, [01:01:00] last, last we were, um, burning some rubbing alcohol, we were getting through this really cold winter.

[01:01:06] Last, Was it January or February 2022?

[01:01:11] **Masterson:** uh, yeah, December and January, because I came

[01:01:13] **Wooten:** December, January, 2022. yeah.

[01:01:16] End of 23.

[01:01:17] **Masterson:** Yeah.

[01:01:18] **Lemley:** Yeah, and um, man, okay. So, you mentioned you'd never even taken the kids camping.

[01:01:25] **Masterson:** really, no. No. David,

[01:01:26] **Lemley:** had you camped at all before you were homeless?

[01:01:30] **Wooten:** but nothing in this

[01:01:31] **Masterson:** mm. mm. Nothing

[01:01:32] **Wooten:** in the survival area as we was living in because, with this being said, it was all survival.

[01:01:39] I mean, it was the weather, it was the rain, it was the storms, it was the snow, it was the cold.

[01:01:46] We had to prepare each different way

[01:01:48] **Masterson:** even when it wasn't doing any of that, if the sun wasn't out to dry, crap up, it took sometimes weeks after it rained for the mud to, oh, it was

[01:01:58] **Wooten:** My wheelchair stayed [01:02:00] caked from different

[01:02:01] **Masterson:** And people would take

[01:02:02] **Wooten:** I mean.

[01:02:03] **Masterson:** and, uh. We would drag, uh, boxes from the grocery store across the street down there, uh, at their dumpster.

[01:02:11] I would go around back and pull the boxes out, flatten them out, and we would put them along the path, the trail, up there. Um, not just me, but a lot of

[01:02:19] **Wooten:** as much as possible.

[01:02:20] **Masterson:** to try to absorb some of that moisture, the water, up off of the place, but

[01:02:27] **Lemley:** Was that Okay, so com combined, how long have you guys been without a home?

[01:02:33] **Masterson:** Well, yeah.

[01:02:35] **Lemley:** A couple years.

[01:02:37] **Masterson:** Like, just out there in that tent, though, was, was different than, I mean, we've been without a home where we were just couch surfing, you know, with our buddies, whatever. But, uh, out there, outside, was, that was the only time. Okay. You know.

[01:02:50] **Lemley:** So it was a shock.

[01:02:51] So there'd never been another time in your history, even for a few

[01:02:54] days? No. You never lived in a

[01:02:56] **Masterson:** No, no.

[01:02:57] **Wooten:** never done none of that. We always Had

[01:02:59] **Masterson:** [01:03:00] somewhere to be inside, uh, even if it might not have lights or water, you know. But, sometimes we squatted in,

[01:03:07] **Lemley:** An abandoned place, okay, for some

[01:03:09] **Masterson:** house that, you know. Somebody's house whose lights had gotten cut off, usually is how it went. Um, it wasn't like, you know, abandoned buildings or anything.

[01:03:16] It was like, you know, our buddy's house and He didn't pay the bill. So then we're gonna sit in the dark for a while. And then somebody come through and pay it. But that's how, usually how some of our friends lives were. They, off and on, you know. They have some,

[01:03:30] You

[01:03:30] know, usually they, they would have things for the first of the month and the end of the month wouldn't, you know.

[01:03:34] Or

[01:03:35] **Wooten:** Yeah, it would all, it would vary from time to time. With different situations,

[01:03:38] **Masterson:** situations. There was a period

[01:03:40] **Wooten:** ours became, when I became paralyzed, I would say. Things started to get difficult for us. I mean, I couldn't work anymore.

[01:03:50] I wasn't making any more money. Uh, we had spent all the money we

[01:03:55] **Masterson:** Well, in our addiction too.

[01:03:57] **Wooten:** And our addiction, along with all that. But [01:04:00] needless to say, though, we were still Got homeless because of this situation that I had gotten myself into with my leg. And I couldn't get it to heal. And with that being done, I couldn't rent money.

[01:04:12] I couldn't work and make money for rooms to keep us in a motel room and pay daily and do this and do that. Well, we did do this until we ran out of all of our money. Because we had actually had a little money at one time.

[01:04:23] **Masterson:** Mm-Hmm. Yeah. And then we had little different things happening, little hustles, you know, so to speak. You know, we did some things, uh,

[01:04:31] you know, get by.

[01:04:32] **Lemley:** What happened to your leg, David? Oh,

[01:04:34] **Wooten:** really sore.

[01:04:35] And I woke up one morning and it was terribly sore. And really swollen. And I could

[01:04:42] **Masterson:** Swollen, I

[01:04:43] **Wooten:** walk on it.

[01:04:48] And, uh, I thought it would be alright, you know, a day or two, and I let a day or two go by and it wasn't alright. And finally, I told her, take me to the hospital, I gotta go. I can't take this anymore, I don't know what's going on with this

[01:04:59] **Masterson:** It was [01:05:00] crazy. He never wanted to go to the, to the hospital

[01:05:03] **Wooten:** I didn't.

[01:05:03] **Masterson:** ever.

[01:05:04] **Wooten:** So, boom, they put me right in. Said, we're gonna need to do a little surgery on it.

[01:05:08] It's got

[01:05:09] **Masterson:** he had, a bad Mercer infection.

[01:05:11] **Wooten:** So they did it. They hospitalized me for a while. A couple, three weeks at that time. Let me out. I went home three days later, I'm right back, and it's even worse than it was the first time.

[01:05:23] And, uh, so they hospitalized me again, took me under the knife, drained my knee again, went in, cut it open, put some drainage tubes in it, drained all this infection off of it, because it just, Flew off.

[01:05:36] Tons of it. And, uh,

[01:05:39] **Masterson:** kept talking

[01:05:40] **Wooten:** Right. Then they kept talking about doing a knee replacement. You know, you need a new knee. Your knees wore out, so we really need a new knee. But we can't do the knee with infection, because it won't take the new knee. The infection is causing it to, you know, be

[01:05:53] **Masterson:** Our addiction was fueling his infection.

[01:05:55] **Wooten:** might

[01:05:56] **Lemley:** Were you injection users? Okay, so is that maybe what the

[01:05:59] infection

[01:05:59] **Wooten:** [01:06:00] But I didn't shoot in my leg

[01:06:01] **Masterson:** No, but still.

[01:06:03] **Lemley:** could

[01:06:03] **Wooten:** my leg. It just happened to be,

[01:06:05] **Lemley:** show up anywhere,

[01:06:06] **Wooten:** where it showed up.

[01:06:06] **Lemley:** I've seen some people with it in strange places and that you wouldn't inject, yeah.

[01:06:10] **Wooten:** Some people, you know, and I didn't, I didn't have a problem with my injection part of life when I'm, uh, in my drug use. I had really good, Nothing bra. I just had veins and I could always take care of that.

[01:06:22] **Masterson:** could always take care of that. No. Were

[01:06:27] **Lemley:** you able to use clean needles or did

[01:06:28] **Wooten:** you Oh yeah. Yeah. Pretty much. Didn't have. Pretty much all the time.

[01:06:31] **Masterson:** or did

[01:06:32] **Lemley:** Even with all that?

[01:06:33] **Masterson:** to?

[01:06:34] **Wooten:** There was times,

[01:06:35] **Masterson:** yeah,

[01:06:36] **Wooten:** the worst we did though,

[01:06:38] **Masterson:** didn't have

[01:06:39] **Wooten:** right, yeah,

[01:06:40] I would get on the bus and go, both

[01:06:42] **Masterson:** all that?

[01:06:45] I

[01:06:45] had a hard time with, with that part of it, really difficult time, and most of the time didn't, couldn't inject myself any, any way.

[01:06:53] And, uh, and it got to a point where my veins and all became so bad that, um, [01:07:00] I had to have a brand new one every time. Uh, I mean, it's just out of, It's just what it,

[01:07:08] **Wooten:** I couldn't

[01:07:09] **Masterson:** inject otherwise.

[01:07:10] **Lemley:** A brand new vein every time? Needle every time. Needle every

[01:07:13] **Masterson:** Every time. You have to use one, every time. Uh, I mean, it just wouldn't penetrate my skin

[01:07:20] **Lemley:** than what I've done. Yeah. I

[01:07:22] don't

[01:07:23] **Masterson:** know why. Um, it, it dulls,

[01:07:25] **Wooten:** go dull. Just one stick, one stick they dull, after one stick.

[01:07:28] You can use one,

[01:07:30] **Masterson:** I've seen people use 'em over and over and over and over and over. Right. Um, and, but. For me, I just couldn't, I couldn't ever, it would never penetrate my vein if it wasn't brand new for some

[01:07:42] **Wooten:** Yeah, you had

[01:07:42] **Masterson:** Mine were just hard, um, and in the hospital the doctors even told me you're, you have hardening of the arteries. You're, it's, and it's so scary, you know, what I've done to myself and it's just, I beat myself up every day. And, I don't know why, uh, we, we let ourselves do these things to, [01:08:00] to ourselves, but we do.

[01:08:02] **Wooten:** I,

[01:08:02] **Masterson:** I, I just, I'm just I'm glad I don't have to do this again, you know. I'm done with it, so.

[01:08:08] **Lemley:** mean as we all do whatever we need to do to make it to the next morning, right?

[01:08:13] And that just, it looks different for each of us.

[01:08:16] **Wooten:** God, it does, and uh, it is a different situation.

[01:08:19] **Lemley:** So when you're in that tent and you're, you're praying to God to get you five dollars just to, keep you both from freezing.

[01:08:27] Part of

[01:08:28] the reason you were in the tent was also because you were afraid if you went to a shelter you might not be able to get what you, the drugs you needed.

[01:08:34] **Wooten:** why We wouldn't go

[01:08:35] **Masterson:** We couldn't,

[01:08:36] **Wooten:** couldn't find what we're looking

[01:08:37] for

[01:08:37] **Masterson:** wouldn't be any way.

[01:08:38] **Wooten:** couldn't get the money or I couldn't get ahold of my dude.

[01:08:40] It would you know,

[01:08:41] **Masterson:** and you know, besides just wanting to have it, that wouldn't have been it at all. We would have been really sick.

[01:08:46] Otherwise,

[01:08:47] **Lemley:** don't want to be dope sick

[01:08:48] **Masterson:** very sick, right? Which is where by when the methadone program entered our lives became such a such a blessing in my life. Anyway, I know [01:09:00] yours too, but

[01:09:01] **Lemley:** And so you're in the tent, you, you have everything you need, you've prepared, but you don't have your whole, you don't have your whole stash that you need.

[01:09:08] **Masterson:** need. No, we were.

[01:09:09] We were all right for a minute. We were okay. Yeah, right.

[01:09:12] **Lemley:** So you knew, you,

[01:09:13] **Wooten:** for that too.

[01:09:13] **Masterson:** we prepared for that. We did. We did. Um,

[01:09:16] **Wooten:** extra hard panhandling, I stayed out there a lot longer than I had to.

[01:09:20] **Masterson:** In a situation come up, we, we were able to have enough.

[01:09:23] **Wooten:** We need a three day

[01:09:25] supply. We knew we got to have three day supply, but we got to be easy on it because you know, that's not going to be, that's going to be a lot of money to come up with.

[01:09:31] **Masterson:** And so

[01:09:32] **Lemley:** How much is a three day supply?

[01:09:34] **Wooten:** Couple hundred bucks

[01:09:35] easier. Really? Yeah.

[01:09:37] **Masterson:** had, uh,

[01:09:38] **Wooten:** So I'm going to have two people using drugs at least three times a day and more if we could.

[01:09:44] But three for sure to get through the day.

[01:09:46] **Lemley:** And is that, was that mostly fentanyl at the

[01:09:49] time? Yes,

[01:09:50] **Wooten:** yes.

[01:09:51] **Lemley:** Just fentanyl, or was heroin that had

[01:09:53] **Wooten:** No,

[01:09:54] **Masterson:** it

[01:09:54] **Wooten:** fentanyl, it was fentanyl.

[01:09:56] **Masterson:** He was putting it out as, as heroin, but I don't [01:10:00] think I've probably ever really done any.

[01:10:01] **Wooten:** She probably never done heroin. I did, but she probably never done heroin. She probably only ever did

[01:10:07] **Masterson:** Mm hmm.

[01:10:07] **Lemley:** I've heard with the, and I don't want to get too far into this because again we could talk about this all day. I've heard with the fentanyl, it, it, it's, it's much stronger, but shorter

[01:10:18] **Wooten:** Right, shorter lasting, right.

[01:10:19] **Lemley:** having to use 12 times a

[01:10:21] **Wooten:** Right, there is people out there.

[01:10:23] **Lemley:** Three times a day doesn't sound like very much.

[01:10:25] **Masterson:** Well, also, and if you, uh, were like us, we were really scared of, of it the way it is anymore. It was really afraid.

[01:10:31] **Lemley:** You'd already

[01:10:32] lost So Including your own

[01:10:35] **Masterson:** Right. So our, our, our thing was just to do a little bit as it was every time that we scored, even though we were getting it from the same guy, it might look a little bit different and you know, we were scared to death of it.

[01:10:46] So we would just do a little bit and then if that's okay, we'll do a little bit more. So basically we were ended up injecting like twice as much, um, as many times, but less

[01:10:56] **Lemley:** Because you're being

[01:10:57] careful.

[01:10:57] **Masterson:** because we're being very, very careful [01:11:00] just a little bit at a time. And if we need it, and I would just be scared to death if he, if I would think he was having a little too much in there, I would beg him just don't just put it back in there and you know, put a little bit back and if it's not enough, you know, do some more.

[01:11:11] Your

[01:11:11] **Lemley:** veins are better than mine.

[01:11:12] **Wooten:** Yeah. Yeah.

[01:11:15] **Lemley:** Um, and, and did you, either of you ever overdose after

[01:11:18] Narcan?

[01:11:19] **Masterson:** so many

[01:11:19] times?

[01:11:21] **Wooten:** Both of times. I woke up and she was out. And I would not be able to get her away because I had a dog canner. She used to walk up and me be out. Same thing, vice versa.

[01:11:34] And her saved my life. And then, uh

[01:11:36] **Lemley:** In the tent?

[01:11:37] **Wooten:** tent? In the

[01:11:38] **Masterson:** in the tent. Um, I've been in an ambulance to the hospital twice. OD'ed and,

[01:11:43] **Lemley:** Even as careful as you were being?

[01:11:45] **Wooten:** being? Yeah.

[01:11:46] **Masterson:** earlier before when, uh, in the beginning,

[01:11:49] David wasn't

[01:11:50] there. David was in jail.

[01:11:51] **Wooten:** Uh huh.

[01:11:52] in jail

[01:11:52] **Masterson:** that time. And, um, and, uh, I was at someone's house and, and overdosed and I was alone.

[01:11:58] Uh, don't know what possessed me to, [01:12:00] to, I, like I said, I don't do myself. And, uh, and I had been in this bathroom and, and was trying to do what I was gonna do a little bit and fooled around and fooled around and never could get it. And I was just about ready to give up on it and I was just gonna. I snorted a little bit of it, and, and, and, and I got it and I hit, and that's all I remember.

[01:12:18] The next thing I knew I was in an ambulance, and, um, but a neighbor found me, um, had come over there, um, to visit with the, the gentleman, the old man that lived there, that's where we lived, and, um,

[01:12:31] he

[01:12:32] didn't even know I was in, in, in there. Uh, he said, uh, the young man came to the bathroom and the door was open a little and he opened it and he saw me in

[01:12:39] **Wooten:** there.

[01:12:41] **Masterson:** Said I was blue,

[01:12:42] **Lemley:** and

[01:12:42] **Masterson:** called an ambulance. And from what I understand, they, they Narcaned gave me three narcans and narcaned me three times. And, uh, I, I wasn't back. And so they put me in an ambulance and gave me one more. On that fourth one brought me back and they took me to the So I was ba I was probably gone that time.

[01:12:59] That was the [01:13:00] first time. And, uh.

[01:13:02] My dumb ass woke up at the hospital and talked with the lady there who asked me if I wanted to go to rehab. And, and I, and so I did. I went to rehab. It was the only time I ever went. And um, I was there for 28 days and I got out of rehab and I got on, they brought me back to the house there, same place.

[01:13:21] I went in there and I did it again. 28 days later,

[01:13:24] I did

[01:13:25] **Wooten:** the same thing. Yeah, that's when you get over to rehab.

[01:13:27] **Lemley:** gentleman. Yeah, I did

[01:13:29] **Masterson:** did it again. I mean, that's the only two times that ever happened to me that way, but um, I, you know, I did learn a little bit that time. So, um, I guess, not

[01:13:38] **Wooten:** much, but, uh,

[01:13:41] **Masterson:** I know that you don't wait, you know, you can't, Like you said, whether, if you go to jail for a while, or if you get clean for a little while, and then you go back and, Sure, you never do as much as you used to do.

[01:13:52] People say, well, you don't do as much as you did before.

[01:13:55] **Lemley:** But you don't realize how low your tolerance

[01:13:58] **Masterson:** no idea, even just using a [01:14:00] little, like I said, I had just a tiny, tiny, tiny bit in that, that I did myself, because I knew I was by myself, and, and I, you know, I am real, real, You know, really, really careful. And, um, I can't believe that that happened to me like that.

[01:14:16] But I know never to do,

[01:14:17] **Lemley:** It's really normal.

[01:14:18] **Masterson:** you know, people do it alone. That's so scary, you know. I would never suggest anyone use by themselves when they're alone. Um, ever just, you know, always someone needs to be around. Just never good to be alone,

[01:14:33] **Wooten:** you

[01:14:33] know.

[01:14:34] No, I'm

[01:14:35] **Masterson:** So many

[01:14:36] **Lemley:** people

[01:14:37] **Masterson:** die alone.

[01:14:41] **Wooten:** It's a dangerous drug. It's uh, wow, man. I'm so glad to be away from it though. It is a blessing

[01:14:46] to not even think about it. I had no relapses. She has no relapses. Uh, we quit. We quit.

[01:14:52] **Masterson:** and I just can't believe the change in in David. I always knew that I could.

[01:14:56] Just could do it. And I knew he could, but people say, [01:15:00] oh, people can't change. Well, they can't. You can't change a person. No, you can't

change person. I disagree. I disagree. I, it took me a long time, but I made this one the way I wanted him.

[01:15:12] **Wooten:** Finally, I

[01:15:12] **Masterson:** think I, my work is done here,

[01:15:15] **Wooten:** perfecting

[01:15:15] **Lemley:** you perfected

[01:15:16] **Masterson:** did, I, I'm, I'm happy now.

[01:15:18] **Lemley:** is pretty perfect.

[01:15:21] **Wooten:** She's got me where she wants me.

[01:15:21] **Masterson:** So,

[01:15:26] **Lemley:** So you guys made it through that crazy winter. You were already in a relationship with City Road Chapel at the

[01:15:33] time. So,

[01:15:34] but things, when did you start the methadone program and So, and, and, when did you, David, you moved into the church, so we're sitting in a church right now that, Terry, now, for one more night only, you live in, um, in the shelter here, and so do you, I've only seen the men's shelter, do you, is it, is, do you have your own little space?

[01:15:57] **Masterson:** Uh huh, it's just like theirs, it's on the same, [01:16:00] on the other hallway, but it's just like that, it's this little divided off area, like, like theirs, but mine is bigger, cause I, I just, I don't know how I got that,

[01:16:09] **Wooten:** being there longer than anybody else making

[01:16:12] **Masterson:** No, I've been here a

[01:16:13] **Wooten:** of people have not made this program. And you know, I made a comment yesterday that, uh, people can do this if they try.

[01:16:22] **Masterson:** do it. They

[01:16:22] **Wooten:** You gotta want to do it, of course, you know.

[01:16:25] **Masterson:** I

[01:16:25] **Wooten:** so many people have come through here, And being thrown out of the program. And when I say thrown out, I mean thrown out because they can't do right.

[01:16:34] They refuse over and over, you know. They give you a 30 day grace period to come back, you know, keep coming back dirty. But after 30 days, you got to come clean. They're not coming with clean tests. They're still coming dirty with fentanyl and meths and so forth. And they have to put them out. I mean, the program will not pay for them to keep using while they're in the program.

[01:16:56] **Masterson:** a drug

[01:16:57] **Wooten:** drug program.

[01:16:58] but it's, uh, it's [01:17:00] one that's, uh, it's to help you. They will put you on the methadone. They will pay for it. They will give you the bus passes to get back and forth there every day. There's no excuses.

[01:17:09] **Masterson:** you're

[01:17:10] **Wooten:** That's right. And this is a step

[01:17:11] **Masterson:** shouldn't need to be, uh, you wouldn't need to

[01:17:14] **Wooten:** to be

[01:17:14] See, you know, when

[01:17:15] **Masterson:** away your

[01:17:16] craving for

[01:17:18] **Wooten:** went to the methadone. She would not go for a minute. She would go and she wouldn't go. She'd go and she wouldn't go because she was so sick coming off of the

[01:17:25] **Lemley:** So you're still dope sick

[01:17:27] **Masterson:** Well, it was hard for me to walk. My hips

[01:17:29] **Wooten:** Her hip was bad.

[01:17:31] **Masterson:** and it was cold still and I could not walk through that Walgreens parking lot to get on the bus. Many times my case manager would drive me Just through that parking lot to the bus. That's, it, that, it was just excruciating to walk through there.

[01:17:45] And I'd rather not go and lay up there and be sick, than have to walk in that, in that pain on, on my hip. And those stairs, up and down the three flights of stairs, were really, really hard for me. So, some days I wouldn't go to the methadone. But once I [01:18:00] finally got, It in my system and it started helping me.

[01:18:02] Um,

[01:18:03] I'm,

[01:18:03] **Wooten:** You couldn't keep her from it. You couldn't keep her. She was up four o'clock in the morning.

[01:18:07] **Lemley:** Ready for my appointment. She

[01:18:08] **Wooten:** Tay the parking lot tryin to get to the bus, you know. Catch

[01:18:12] **Masterson:** my dose.

[01:18:13] **Lemley:** know.

[01:18:13] **Wooten:** Yeah, and, uh, You know, after a while, I finally come and said, okay.

[01:18:18] **Masterson:** I'm like, you have got to try this, man. What else is going to make me get up at 4. 30 in the morning

[01:18:26] **Wooten:** Yeah, and go for a jog, right. On

[01:18:29] **Masterson:** the bus?

[01:18:29] **Wooten:** the methadone clinic.

[01:18:30] **Masterson:** Because I promised my pain was alleviated immediately. I mean, it helped my hip Yes.

[01:18:37] **Lemley:** No, I haven't heard that. So the methadone hasn't just helped your addiction. It has helped your actual physical pain, chronic pain that you've lived with for a long

[01:18:45] **Masterson:** Oh yeah. I couldn't right now. I, that's the only thing that I've gotten through Christmas. If I get through Christmas with this hip before I, you know, go to, try to have my hip worked, done was I can get up and go and get my medication every morning, my methadone, every morning.

[01:18:57] It's an, you know, it's an opiate. How [01:19:00] Every, it's every mor I only, I only go Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Okay. Uh,

[01:19:04] **Wooten:** Which we get take off. We

[01:19:06] get take off.

[01:19:06] **Masterson:** I take it every day.

[01:19:07] **Lemley:** day

[01:19:08] **Wooten:** You earn them by clean uas. You know you, when you

[01:19:11] do

[01:19:12] **Masterson:** I only

[01:19:12] **Lemley:** trust you with them. They

[01:19:13] **Wooten:** you. They give you your take home with you.

[01:19:15] **Masterson:** And so here, um, uh, I guess in the next week or so, I am up to, uh, weekly I'll bring, be bringing him home weekly and he's right

[01:19:23] **Wooten:** Go once a week and get 'em and don't

[01:19:25] **Masterson:** Yeah. I just go once a week. And that's only be honest with you. I'm gonna tell you that's only because the marijuana is, because I smoke

[01:19:31] **Lemley:** marijuana.

[01:19:32] **Masterson:** And,

[01:19:32] **Lemley:** And they're fine with

[01:19:33] **Masterson:** Yeah.

[01:19:34] **Lemley:** Yeah. You

[01:19:35] **Masterson:** know, um, you get weekly take homes. You could get monthly, up to monthly take homes, but not with the THC.

[01:19:41] Um, so, but if I want to maintain, if there's still smoke, then I can, I can still get weekly

[01:19:46] **Lemley:** takes. Weekly is pretty

[01:19:47] **Masterson:** Weekly's fine with me. I can go once a week. That's great. I go once a day, you know. But, um, yeah, definitely once a week is going to be better for me now with my hip so bad. I can't get on and off the bus so bad, but we[01:20:00]

[01:20:00] uh,

[01:20:01] have met some friends, uh, our ladies friends.

[01:20:04] Uh, we have a really, really, really sweet, um, Daughter and mother, uh, friends

[01:20:10] **Wooten:** who has adopted

[01:20:11] **Masterson:** have adopted us. They truly have. They're wonderful. They saw David, uh, Wheeling to the methadone clinic one morning, stopped, talked with him. And ever since that morning, and that was in July, they have come every morning and picked David up to take him to the clinic.

[01:20:26] Um, I go with them now. I was going to a different clinic in the beginning, but now I go out here closer to the Rivergate where we both go together. And, um, The only reason I was going to Charlotte was because that's who they were affiliated with here. Um, now that they know of this new

[01:20:41] **Lemley:** place

[01:20:41] **Masterson:** in Rivergate.

[01:20:42] Um, so we're both going there, but they pick us up every morning and take us every, well every other morning that we have to, every day we have to go, they take us. And um, she goes as well, one of the ladies. And, uh, they've been wonderful to us, so I

[01:20:57] **Wooten:** they have

[01:20:57] **Masterson:** get on that bus and go to Charlotte every [01:21:00] day, Charlotte Avenue from Madison, and that was an hour and a half each

[01:21:04] **Lemley:** But worth

[01:21:05] **Wooten:** too. It was getting harder and harder and harder. The

[01:21:06] **Masterson:** that was bad.

[01:21:07] **Lemley:** that's what I was going to ask. So, okay, so real quick, uh, we haven't talked about what is going on with your hip. We haven't, we talked about it a little earlier, but not, um, on the record. And then let's talk about what it's been like because your transportation for both of you is tricky.

[01:21:21] Uh, David, David is in a wheelchair and Terry has a walker. So Terry, real quick, what, what is your hip? You've had this going on for a long time.

[01:21:29] **Masterson:** it's like, um, my left hip is, um, I have like, osteoarthritis. It's just degenerating, and, um, it's just barely, my leg is just kind of hanging there, and so I have to use the walker, uh, for, I can't walk without it.

[01:21:43] I can't. My leg has gotten shorter than, than the other

[01:21:47] **Lemley:** And you said the cup, like when you think of the

[01:21:49] **Masterson:** Yeah, like the ball joint going into the, the cut part, the part that fits around the ball joint is just gone. It's just sort of whittled away. It's deteriorated away. It's broken off a little bit [01:22:00] at a

[01:22:00] **Wooten:** Slowly but

[01:22:01] **Masterson:** what I understand.

[01:22:02] **Wooten:** away, yeah.

[01:22:02] and,

[01:22:03] **Masterson:** And I don't have insurance, you know, to have a hip replacement.

[01:22:06] I was um, That's what we've been dealing with, but I work now and trying to see if I can't get some insurance that way and get this, my hip taken care of, cause I, it's, it's really, really difficult for, for me to, I, I fell, um, then, like last week, and, and that's been, Torture. Um, but I don't know. I, I, I, I'm just tougher than I thought, I guess, because I have, I'm, I'm hanging in there, and, and I, every morning that I wake up, knock on wood, I'm like, you know, I, I'm able to move a little bit better than I was yesterday.

[01:22:39] And, you know, I, I, when it first happened, I thought, I won't be able to go to work tomorrow. I'm really going to be hurting tomorrow. But I got up, and I, and I made it. It was right before Christmas. I kind of had to. Like, if you lay out the day before, the day after, you know, it's, Not good. So I just kind of had to go and, uh, and I got a little bit better.

[01:22:58] Um, I'm able to stand up and [01:23:00] move around on it, but it's not something I, I can ignore, you know.

[01:23:04] **Lemley:** And,

[01:23:05] how

[01:23:06] long, when's the last time you guys have had your own car?

[01:23:09] **Masterson:** Shhh.

[01:23:11] **Wooten:** Been a few years. a Mercedes.

[01:23:16] **Masterson:** yeah, for a little while we bought a, used a used car. I only had that a couple months, but we had a, a, um, Jeep about seven years ago, eight years

[01:23:27] **Lemley:** believe. Yeah, we

[01:23:30] **Masterson:** Yeah, rode the bus

[01:23:33] **Lemley:** bus. What is that like in different weather? You've seen a lot of change in the bus system. The shelters have gotten a little bit better.

[01:23:41] **Masterson:** Sometimes they don't even pick us up.

[01:23:43] **Wooten:** They don't want to deal with handicapped. They don't want to deal

[01:23:45] with

[01:23:45] **Masterson:** if the weather's bad.

[01:23:47] They don't want,

[01:23:47] **Lemley:** you by. If you're in a chair,

[01:23:49] **Wooten:** a minute.

[01:23:51] **Lemley:** Why?

[01:23:52] **Wooten:** They don't want to do it. Or they'll

[01:23:53] **Masterson:** or they'll open the doors and lay everybody else on but us when, yeah, that's the really

[01:23:58] **Wooten:** look back and they'll say, [01:24:00] Anybody want to give up your seat for the wheelchair?

[01:24:04] And he'll say, nobody wants to give a seat up, brother, I can't, I don't know what to tell you. I mean, I was here before they was. You loaded all them and now you want to load me, but now when it's time to load me, you want to tell me that nobody wants to give me up a seat.

[01:24:15] **Lemley:** How many times have you had that happen?

[01:24:17] **Masterson:** Oh, it's right, it happens.

[01:24:18] **Wooten:** twelve times lately. It That often, all the time.

[01:24:23] **Masterson:** Um, one bus will pass by and another bus will, you know, they'll say, there'll be another bus in a minute,

[01:24:28] **Wooten:** Yeah, they'll tell you, there's another bus coming.

[01:24:30] **Masterson:** another bus coming. It happens

[01:24:32] **Wooten:** My ramp don't work.

[01:24:33] **Masterson:** Oh, that's a big one.

[01:24:35] **Wooten:** a big one. My ramp don't work.

[01:24:36] **Masterson:** My ramp doesn't work. I get that one myself and I just need them to lower it for me sometimes.

[01:24:41] I don't need it. Here lately, since I fell, I have had to ask for the ramp a couple times and I, generally I don't have as much trouble as they give David. Um, but I've been witness to them. They give David a hard time. They really do. Worse than with me.

[01:24:57] **Wooten:** me. They'll, they'll use my wheelchair

[01:24:58] **Masterson:** I'll actually have young men help [01:25:00] me on and off the bus.

[01:25:01] Um, I don't, I don't, they don't, These bus drivers are really rude to David. They are. They, it's ugly.

[01:25:10] **Wooten:** embarrassed. Me too. I mean, they were really,

[01:25:11] **Masterson:** One time he told me he wasn't going to let him on the bus. I said, no, you know, come on and get on this bus. I've got to get to work and y'all are going to make me late. I did. They were like, this little bus driver was like a child and I really had to get on to him. I'm like, now get on the bus. David's, and my husband was like, no, he said I can't get on.

[01:25:28] I said, he's getting on the bus. Get on the bus. So he came on. We got on the bus that day and rode on to

[01:25:34] **Lemley:** But you had to fight for it.

[01:25:35] We did.

[01:25:35] **Masterson:** yes. He said that David's wheelchair, uh,

[01:25:38] **Wooten:** Wouldn't lock.

[01:25:39] **Masterson:** That it wouldn't lock. He said, I remember you from before and your wheelchair won't lock. He had a new wheelchair. I said, well, this is an entirely different chair.

[01:25:46] Uh, he said, no, it's not the same one. We're not going to argue about this. The wheelchair is fine. Get him on the bus, get up, come do it. And you'll see it is, you know, it's no sense in arguing about it. Just put him on there and do it. You'll see he's fine. So [01:26:00] he put him in there and locked him down. And sure enough, it locked.

[01:26:02] And I mean, why argue? That's what I can, why argue about it? The chair works. It's obviously not the same chair you thought it was, so let's move on and quit arguing. But they will do that and regularly too. Not

[01:26:16] **Wooten:** And you can turn it in and I've, I've gone down central and went up and told them and they'll say, we'll take care of it. We'll, we'll have something done about this. And they never do. You know, I'll say the same bus driver again and I'll be sitting there and he'll just never let the ramp down. And I'm like, and he's like,

[01:26:34] **Masterson:** they'll,

[01:26:34] **Wooten:** I'm like, I need to get on brother.

[01:26:36] And he's cut the door driver off.

[01:26:39] And then, you know, Next bus driver comes through and they may load me up or they may say my ramp don't work. I said, look, I haven't been here 30 minutes, man. I need to get to where I need to go. Well, I'm sorry. My bus is loaded. I don't know nobody you might want to move in at the wheelchair.

[01:26:56] Have a seat. Nobody wants to move, sir. Just [01:27:00] shut the door. Drive off. Don't give me no more answers or nothing. You know, and it's just, oh Lord. It'd be freezing outside, cold, raining. It does not matter. They would leave me sitting right there.

[01:27:11] **Lemley:** What did you do before, for work before you?

[01:27:13] **Wooten:** I built houses. I'm a house framer.

[01:27:16] Yeah, I'm a framer. I've always been out in the construction field. And, uh.

[01:27:21] **Lemley:** So you have, you, even when you have had housing,

[01:27:26] you've outside

[01:27:27] is part of your life. 'cause it was part of your work

[01:27:29] **Wooten:** and

[01:27:30] **Lemley:** because of your disability you can't drive. And

[01:27:33] **Wooten:** right. Well, I could drive now. It would be just not being able to buy a vehicle now.

[01:27:39] It's, you know,

[01:27:40] **Masterson:** We talked about it. I think you could drive.

[01:27:44] **Wooten:** Yeah,

[01:27:44] **Masterson:** I can drive.

[01:27:45] **Wooten:** can drive too.

[01:27:47] **Masterson:** I think, you know, that'll be

[01:27:48] something

[01:27:48] **Wooten:** Yeah, it's

[01:27:49] something we gotta figure out whenever we come across the money. We'd have to have the money to buy a vehicle. Just not getting moved and so forth. It's gonna be hard.

[01:27:58] **Lemley:** on

[01:27:59] **Wooten:** Cause I find this[01:28:00]

[01:28:00] **Masterson:** But we are on the bus line,

[01:28:01] **Wooten:** Yeah.

[01:28:03] **Lemley:** you a house framer?

[01:28:05] **Wooten:** 35 years. Yeah.

[01:28:07] **Lemley:** And that's all

[01:28:08] **Wooten:** All weather. Uh, you couldn't play. I mean, you'd have to get out and sweep and scrape the floor, you know, get the ice off, break it up with a hammer, uh, snowing outside. You had to put it together.

[01:28:27] 793.

[01:28:32] **Masterson:** You know, I was a barber.

[01:28:33] I don't think we talked about that. That's what I did before. He was a

[01:28:36] **Lemley:** Yeah, you trained at the Oh, that's right. You trained at the Walgreens before it was the Walgreens. Yeah. So you are working outside for 35 years in all, all weather, all year. So you were saying, what, what would you have to break apart if it iced

[01:28:50] **Wooten:** Oh, like, you know, when it would, uh, rain and freeze.

[01:28:53] Yeah. It would, uh Coat the floor, of course, and so we'd take hammers and break that

[01:28:59] **Lemley:** Off the [01:29:00] building, you're, you're building

[01:29:01] **Wooten:** off and then we could start, yeah, then we could pop new lines and go back and frame the houses up. And of course, you know, we get a 55 gallon drum out there and keep Wood in it and burn, stay warm out in the weather and, uh.

[01:29:14] **Lemley:** Burn your own

[01:29:15] **Wooten:** Yeah, burn our own materials, all of our scrap materials. So there wouldn't have to be a cleanup guy, you know. He wouldn't have to load it all up and throw it away somewhere. We'd burn it all down. And, uh, yeah, I built a lot of houses, uh, custom homes and, uh. Did, uh, framed a lot in the snow and the weather with cranes and, uh, putting trusses up and doing the whole nine yards.

[01:29:39] It was all fun. I had a lot of fun building houses.

[01:29:42] **Lemley:** What year did you start building houses?

[01:29:43] **Wooten:** Oh, I was 18. Yeah, I was 18. I got out of the plumbing business. My family was in the plumbing business all, always. And I worked in and out of it for six years and, uh. Needs to say I still know a lot of plumbing because I did it a lot, but uh, I [01:30:00] love to build a house I mean, it was my big thing.

[01:30:02] It's framing houses

[01:30:04] **Lemley:** And um, what year were you born? 62 So you were 18. So that's 1980. You started building houses. And.

[01:30:14] And then you did from 1980 to about 2000, if I can do my math, 2000, uh, or 20. Fifteen?

[01:30:23] **Wooten:** Eighteen, I think. It could have been fifteen to eighteen, but it seems more like I was about It was about eighteen, 2018, when I stopped framing.

[01:30:34] **Masterson:** Yeah. When

[01:30:35] **Wooten:** When I couldn't do it no more. Yeah, well I've had a bunch of businesses of my own. We've lived very good off my living.

[01:30:41] with her doing barber work and me building houses and working for myself.

[01:30:46] We've lived a pretty decent life back in the day and, uh,

[01:30:50] **Lemley:** What changes in, because you're in the, like we keep saying, you're in the extreme, you're working every day out in the extreme temperatures, the blazing [01:31:00] heat and the freezing cold. Um, what changes did you see? Let's just say between 1980 and, and, and 2000, you know, what, what changes did you see in that time?

[01:31:11] **Wooten:** did

[01:31:13] **Masterson:** Mm.

[01:31:17] **Wooten:** in that time?

[01:31:24] Ways that you would have to build a house now due to the weather because of the hurricane. You got to make, right, everything now you got to have hurricane clips, tornado clips. You got to build extra, uh, like T's and corners for that to have an extra two by four put on it. To make it more sturdier for the wind and the weather and the rain, uh, you learn to make your dimensions.

[01:31:46] You know, some houses you might have ten or eleven dimensions on a roof. And when I say dimensions, you may have one going this way with one coming across that way, one coming across this way,

[01:31:56] **Lemley:** way,

[01:31:56] So a roof not being just up and down like we think when you draw a

[01:31:59] **Wooten:** you [01:32:00] draw pictures. Yeah, right, when you just have a roof like this.

[01:32:02] Now you got them all different angles, different standards, and they're customized to look very good from, you know, the street.

[01:32:08] **Lemley:** but that's for the weather?

[01:32:09] **Wooten:** because it all, you got to remember, no matter how you do have to prepare that roof for the weather. In other words, the water's got to run off, the snow's got to melt and run off.

[01:32:21] So each dimension you do, you can't have water setting nowhere. And even in that case, like a big house, and if you had so much, you had water that could sit somewhere and didn't get to a situation where it could roll off into the gutters and so forth, then you would have a big ice stack that would build up and freeze and maybe drop through the house.

[01:32:43] get too heavy for the roof to handle. Or over and over, over periods of time,

[01:32:49] it would develop, uh, rotten

[01:32:52] wood underneath

[01:32:54] the area if you had a lot of water that would stand. So in other words, when you did a house, you had to fix the [01:33:00] dimensions. You know, a guy might say, I want this roof like this, and I need to do this to do that to it.

[01:33:05] So, the architect didn't already do it because this guy added it on later. Because it's really impossible to do some roofs that people come up with. So you would figure it out to where you could make it work. And then, uh, you know, the measurements might be different. If you wanted to pull 16 foot this way and 12 foot that way until you come together to make a certain Spot to make to where the water will run

[01:33:30] **Lemley:** You

[01:33:31] **Wooten:** you know just different things, but uh,

[01:33:32] **Lemley:** different things. Shingles. We used to have a little bit of the

[01:33:41] **Wooten:** It's a lot of sort of weather changing they have had to do so much different things Tornadoes are so much stronger now that they used to build houses But now everything is more sturdy. You are using a different grade, a different size of wood on roofs.

[01:33:57] Roofs used to be quarter inch, little thin [01:34:00] pieces of plywood on top. Now you can put no less than a half to three eighths piece up there because it's, it's got to be sturdy. It's got to be able to hold the weather, you know. And, uh, you, uh, The roofing has changed now. You had, uh, different types of shingles that you used to put up.

[01:34:22] You used to have a little, remember, the thin shingle.

[01:34:24] **Masterson:** John did the

[01:34:25] **Wooten:** John did the shingles. And, uh, you know, had the real, real thin shingle. Now you got these big, old, thick, uh, I can't think what they're called. I know what they're called, but I can't, uh.

[01:34:37] **Masterson:** Those that look like wood,

[01:34:38] **Wooten:** Yeah, but it had the layers on it.

[01:34:40] layers, layers. layers. Uh, I can't think of what it's called.

[01:34:44] **Masterson:** But what's the

[01:34:45] **Wooten:** Uh.

[01:34:46] **Masterson:** What are they for, what's the difference?

[01:34:49] **Wooten:** They're heavier and thicker, and so for the shingles to be that big and heavy and thick, you had to put a three quarter plywood on the roof.

[01:34:57] **Lemley:** Exactly, that can't

[01:34:59] **Wooten:** Exactly. [01:35:00] It can't hold all the weight. So the shingles would weigh more than the roof would weigh, so you would have to put a thicker wood up there, you know, plywood.

[01:35:08] You would use a four by eight, uh, three quarter sheet, you know, and, uh, it could hold lots and lots of weight. You know, you could put a lot of weight on that. But, uh, it makes a big difference. I mean, weather is part of, uh, today's, uh, way of doing things. I mean, everything has changed because of weather. Uh,

[01:35:29] weather is dramatic.

[01:35:30] I

[01:35:30] don't

[01:35:31] **Masterson:** weather,

[01:35:31] **Wooten:** People don't look at it though. They think of weather, they think of rain and snow. You know, when you say weather, that's what you think of, rain and snow. No, it's really dangerous. I mean, hurricane has got so much worse. Tornadoes has got to where now they don't come in one or two, they come in three or four at a time.

[01:35:48] **Masterson:** of the other tornadoes

[01:35:49] **Wooten:** reason though, they land now, they're landing in three or four spots in the same area. Three or four of them. So how all them went, can you imagine if all them come together and they made [01:36:00] one big one, what would that could destroy?

[01:36:01] **Masterson:** Mm mm mm.

[01:36:03] **Wooten:** I seen one of them little ones destroy, they just, good god almighty man, I seen mighty dry over here tore all two

[01:36:10] **Masterson:** I've never seen anything like that,

[01:36:12] **Wooten:** But everything over there was ripped and laid open, all the wood was tore down to wood

[01:36:17] **Masterson:** at this lady's place.

[01:36:19] **Wooten:** Yeah. And, uh, you know, cars were stuck in buildings.

[01:36:24] Up in the air. I'm talking about stuck

[01:36:26] in buildings where the hurricane had picked them up, twirled them around, and ran them to a building.

[01:36:29] **Masterson:** And it's right down the street.

[01:36:31] **Wooten:** they were stuck inside buildings. You

[01:36:33] know, and I was like, wow, man, this weather is dangerous. Oh, my lord. I didn't know how dangerous it really was. When somebody says weather, what do we think of?

[01:36:44] **Masterson:** So now I know that it can

[01:36:45] **Lemley:** tell. Wear a jacket.

[01:36:46] **Wooten:** Yeah, wear a jacket. Make sure you get your umbrella today, you know.

[01:36:50] People don't think about the hurricanes until they come. Or the tornadoes or so forth.

[01:36:55] **Lemley:** your life. It mean. It means your life. Now when we talk

[01:36:58] **Masterson:** And I've always been afraid to be [01:37:00] in a mobile home, even when it rains. I've always been really afraid of that. And, um, and I, I see

[01:37:06] **Wooten:** so, they're so paper thin and they fall

[01:37:08] **Masterson:** My cousin had a trailer in Millersville, which is not too far down the road, and Uh, I was staying with her one year and we had tornadoes come through, do you remember

[01:37:18] that?

[01:37:19] **Lemley:** year do you think

[01:37:19] **Masterson:** I think that would have been, let's see, uh, it was between 06 and 09 sometime in that, because you were in Texas.

[01:37:30] Yeah, sometime between 06 and 09, around 08 maybe.

[01:37:34] And, um, I was scared to death that night, uh, but we were alright. And it was just a lot of water, a lot of, uh, Strong wind, um, and it was, kind of shook the place a little bit and it was just really scary. But,

[01:37:51] I,

[01:37:51] I, remember being terrified that night. Oh, oh, I remember putting my shoes on. And my little cousin asking me, you know, laughing at me.

[01:37:59] Her husband said, [01:38:00] what's Terry got her shoes on for? Getting up and putting her shoes on. Well, she's afraid that You know, she'll have to run out of the house and she won't have her shoes. I really was.

[01:38:08] **Lemley:** You know, I didn't hear that until recently. I just started when I go, we, we rented the same house for 14 years in East Nashville. It has a basement and it wasn't until I think the last year that I heard, put your shoes on before you go to the basement because if your house blows away and you come up and you're barefoot.

[01:38:24] So, now I carry my sh I wear my shoes.

[01:38:27] **Masterson:** And in the tent we did that too.

[01:38:29] Um, we would sleep in our shoes. And I would see other people doing that when we first went there. Like they gave us a tent to use. And we got in there that night and I started to take my shoes off and lay down and I thought, Uh, Don't want to take my shoes off, don't want to leave my shoes on. So we like slept in our shoes when we were living in the tent because you never knew when you have

[01:38:46] **Wooten:** have to get up and go. I mean,

[01:38:47] **Masterson:** get up and run out.

[01:38:48] You never know. I mean if you're, you

[01:38:50] **Lemley:** know, if it's

[01:38:51] **Masterson:** animal or anything, I don't know, you never know. And we didn't have to deal with that, but. Oh, we heard some crazy animal sounds out there, though. Yeah, [01:39:00] weird. I don't know, animals and birds like early in the morning that I've never heard before, so. You remember?

[01:39:07] I was like, what? There's one little sound I'll never forget it and I would say every morning. What is that thing? I'm picturing in my mind, I never did see it, but like a little grouse or

[01:39:17] **Lemley:** something.

[01:39:18] **Masterson:** It would make this sound, and it was sort of between like a bird and a frog

[01:39:23] **Wooten:** it, was, it was different, I'd never heard it

[01:39:26] **Masterson:** I used to get out early in the morning and kind of look around, but I never would see anything.

[01:39:30] I would just hear the thing off in the bushes and the trees, and it would sort of like,

[01:39:34] **Wooten:** it was every

[01:39:35] **Masterson:** every morning.

[01:39:36] **Wooten:** time.

[01:39:37] **Masterson:** And

[01:39:37] someone was there one morning out I heard outside of the tent and just in the area said what's that? What's that was that?

[01:39:44] **Lemley:** I was like They

[01:39:45] heard

[01:39:45] **Masterson:** heard it too.

[01:39:46] **Wooten:** Yeah, we went

[01:39:47] **Masterson:** made a really weird morning sound

[01:39:51] **Lemley:** Do you still sleep with your shoes on even though you're in the shelter now?

[01:39:54] **Masterson:** That's funny, because when I come home from work, I get off late at 10 or 11, so a [01:40:00] lot of times I don't intend to, but yeah, I end up waking up a lot of times with one shoe on and one shoe off. That's a big thing that I laugh about a lot, I tell David, well I fell asleep, I'll take one shoe off and then somehow just fall asleep, and I wake up in the morning and I've got one on and one

[01:40:14] **Wooten:** off. Me, I get in my tent, first thing my shoes

[01:40:17] **Masterson:** and that's it.

[01:40:17] **Lemley:** So David for now is, is living in a tent just right outside the window where we are. Um, because the church, um, because of his chair, we can't get him up, get him up to the men's shelter.

[01:40:29] **Wooten:** the third floor.

[01:40:30] **Lemley:** And we're, we're about to wrap up here, but I'm going to close this

[01:40:33] **Wooten:** Yeah. Yeah.

[01:40:36] I think it's DNA, you guys, out there. Well, that locked him right out, didn't

[01:40:48] **Lemley:** it sure did.

[01:40:51] So David, I just want to talk about your construction work for just a little bit more. Um, you know, and I know when we're, when we are younger, we, [01:41:00] our bodies handle all kinds of stress differently. So when you started 18 and around 1980, um, Do you remember some of what actually being out in the weather was like with your body compared to, to like 2015?

[01:41:13] **Wooten:** very well.

[01:41:15] I was a runner. I could get up on them walls and walk them, you know, and, uh, a little two or four wall this wide.

[01:41:21] **Lemley:** Oh my gosh.

[01:41:22] **Wooten:** cross over and

[01:41:23] **Lemley:** Balance

[01:41:24] beam on

[01:41:24] **Masterson:** seen him up there myself. And this was as he was older,

[01:41:28] **Wooten:** I could get around, I got around real good on a roof, you know, and then. Of course, you'd build a scaffold and, uh, yeah, it would only be a two by six, but you would, uh, build a scaffold and put these big ol rafters up and start putting the roof together.

[01:41:43] And, uh, yeah, I could run all over them roofs, man. I really miss that, too. And, uh, today I miss it. I want to go and frame a house so bad right now.

[01:41:52] **Lemley:** Do you, um, when it, when it was hot when you were younger, what were the hot seasons like?

[01:41:59] **Wooten:** [01:42:00] you don't even know. You prayed for rain some days. You wanted to work in it because it was so hot, humid.

[01:42:05] Uh, you got on nothing but, you got on nothing but a pair of shorts and a, a carpenter's belt. And you're pouring sweat. You can't keep it all out of your eyes. You can wear all the bandanas around your head. Or, like I would take a t shirt and tow it up over and wrap it this way and tie it right here. And they would soak that t shirt, you know, from the hotness of the heat and the sun beating down on you.

[01:42:30] Uh, I stayed in color at this table all my life. I mean, I always had a good tan from being out there. And I'm a little darker complexed also. But, uh, the weather was tough. It was tough. You learned to work with the rain and snow and the heat and the cold. And, uh, You learn how to dress, you learn how to prepare for heat, you learn how to prepare for cold weather and snow and wrap up [01:43:00] to a point where you can still work.

[01:43:01] You know, you can only wear so much clothes to where you can't reach in your pouch to get out nails and hammer, you know,

[01:43:08] because you're so, people would come up to you. Four or five t shirts on, and you know, two jackets, and stocking caps, and trying to wear gloves, and you can't hardly pick nails up out of your pouch with gloves on, right?

[01:43:23] And you know, uh, but then now you got nail guns, and that's, they're pretty neat, but also it saves time. You can't wear a pair of gloves and pull the thing back and drop nail racks in it, you know? And there you go, so that you can go back and just nail the walls together, and uh.

[01:43:41] But weather was always, uh, a big part of

[01:43:46] **Lemley:** did it seem to change over the 35 years

[01:43:49] **Wooten:** Yeah. It seemed to get a lot hotter as years came by. You know, usually 80 or 90 degrees, you know, on a [01:44:00] regular. Anything over 100 degrees you almost didn't work for a few hours, you couldn't because of the humidity.

[01:44:06] **Lemley:** back in the day?

[01:44:07] **Wooten:** in

[01:44:07] **Masterson:** you'd go into work early and cut

[01:44:09] **Wooten:** we would go in, we would go in in daylight, as soon as the I mean, we'd always take off way before daylight, but when we got to the job and got ready to pull our hammers out, it was as soon as that sun started peeking up over that hill. You know, you could pull out the tools and start laying them out for yourself and getting them ready.

[01:44:27] And, uh, we would do that. And work, if it lasted until 1, we might get off at 1, but we try to keep a 2 o'clock schedule. And, uh, work from 6 in the morning to 2 in the evening, you know, where you get your hours in. But a lot of times it didn't happen. You was knocking off at 12. Believe it or not, it was so hot that you would, uh, you would see guys go down.

[01:44:49] I mean, I've seen so many guys go down in the weather from the heat exhaustion. You know, get hot, hot, sweaty.

[01:44:56] **Masterson:** They, uh, the roofers would always go

[01:44:59] **Wooten:** [01:45:00] afternoon. Right. They, yeah, the roofers would always go back. They'd work in the morning for four hours.

[01:45:04] **Masterson:** evening.

[01:45:05] **Wooten:** They'd come back at maybe six in the evening because it wasn't getting dark till 8. 30 or almost nine o'clock at night back in time. And, uh, they would go back and finish roofing because it wouldn't be so hot.

[01:45:17] **Lemley:** So that, so you said back in the day when you were younger, and let me see, we're, alarm's about to go off, so in 15 seconds, so we'll, we'll just go about, try about 10 more minutes.

[01:45:27] Yeah. Um, when, um, You, so back in the day when you were younger, it would, um, you could kind of start an earlier day, try to get a full day knocked out before, before it's too much in the 80s, 90s. But then you would say around 2015, what, what did that look like? Could you do the same thing? Start an earlier day and work it out?

[01:45:49] **Wooten:** No, not really. Uh, it was more of, uh, just to work in the mornings. And you wouldn't go back because the evenings now seem to be hot
[01:46:00] all the way through. Even

[01:46:01] **Lemley:** Even when the sun goes

[01:46:02] down.

[01:46:02] **Wooten:** when the sun goes down. It's so hot outside that the humidity didn't give you no breaks. No, it just, you just wouldn't go back to work no more.

[01:46:15] **Lemley:** And um. And, so, so we wouldn't, it's okay. Uh, the evening would still be so hot, and the days, like you said, you know, when you were younger, maybe 80s, 90s, that was real hot. It's hard to work in that. But what were, what were you seeing near the end of your career?

[01:46:33] **Wooten:** Uh, morning work only. Toward my end, it was, uh, morning work only.

[01:46:38] You was, you would go in, every day you just get ready for a four hour day. No more than four to five hours.

[01:46:47] **Lemley:** Then what would happen about four or five hours?

[01:46:49] **Wooten:** You'd go home. You'd get out of the heat. Run to get out of it. Go get some air conditioning somewhere. Be done for the day. Go get you some air conditioning somewhere.

[01:46:57] Uh, the heat [01:47:00] was, uh, tremendous on us out here. And, uh, today

[01:47:04] **Masterson:** You couldn't get eight hours in like

[01:47:06] **Wooten:** But these Spanish guys are coming out here today and they're working eight hours a day. They don't care. They're not scared of the heat. Spanish guys, they're workers, man. They get out here in the seat, and they're from Mistico where it's so hot down there, and they come here and this thing doesn't do them.

[01:47:23] I mean, for real, they can really handle it a lot better than our age group and environment could do it.

[01:47:30] **Lemley:** they'd

[01:47:30] **Wooten:** they do it. They really do. I give them credit though.

[01:47:35] No, that's a whole new story. I'm not your brother. Yeah, we'll do that another time.

[01:47:39] **Lemley:** That's a whole other What, um, so you said that you would, um, you would see guys go down. Like,

[01:47:46] **Wooten:** did you see people pass out? Pass out. Did he come over? On the roof? Not really on the roof. They would know they were there.

[01:47:51] **Lemley:** They would know

[01:47:52] **Wooten:** start getting them down, start getting that guy down. He's not looking good up there. You could see it, you know, sweat be pouring off of him. You could see him holding on to the rafters.[01:48:00]

[01:48:00] You could see him wiping his face and just sitting there like he was, you'd immediately tell somebody, get him, grab him, man. Start walking him down for me. You know, and he'd say, you alright? And, uh, yeah, that's, uh, you know, real hesitant.

[01:48:15] **Lemley:** Not making, starting to not

[01:48:16] **Wooten:** not making a lot of sense in herself because their mind is, uh, so, uh, evaporated up.

[01:48:22] **Masterson:** heat

[01:48:23] **Wooten:** heat stroke type

[01:48:23] feels.

[01:48:25] **Lemley:** Did you ever have anyone die?

[01:48:26] **Wooten:** No, I never did. No, I never seen none of that.

[01:48:31] Uh, my guys, uh, I was fortunate to have a bunch of good guys around me when I was working them and they, uh, they, uh, were just tough guys, man, really. They could handle the heat and weather and so forth, like a real champ, man, uh.

[01:48:47] **Lemley:** Oh, that's my brother, yeah. So yeah, just, give you someone to pray for. My brother Mike, he's locked up right now. He got, I think four DUIs this year. Like, he had gone through treatment, [01:49:00] came out, um, failed

[01:49:01] **Wooten:** drug screen, meth and other things. Right, right. Meth

[01:49:03] **Lemley:** meth and benzos, and um, so he's locked up right now. He's 56, and he's just feeling his age.

[01:49:09] Um, but he, he does the roofer work, and I think you know, no excuses, but everything plays a part. When I heard him coming up to this summer, every summer I would hear He's 6'4 Native American, big guy, skinny beanpole, strong, but his body's not as young as it used to be. And I would hear like a panic in his voice about the summer coming.

[01:49:29] Like start to feel like, I don't know if I can do the heat again, I don't know if I can do it. And so I almost think some of that pressure, he self sabotaged in a way, you know, that he, he, he. He used himself out of working this

[01:49:41] summer. and now he's, I think he's going to be in for a while.

[01:49:45] **Wooten:** of guys do not look forward to the summer.

[01:49:46] When you speak of the summer coming, you know, and they're getting ready for it, they're not looking forward to it. I promise you they're not. It's so hot now. And humidity really grabs a hold of these guys now, not like it used to. And, uh, [01:50:00] today's worker is not as prepared as they was in the 80s. It's been handling the weather, you know.

[01:50:11] In the 80s, we worked 10, 12 hours a day every day. It didn't matter. You just loved it, cause you, you like, not only did you like the money, you liked what you did, you know?

[01:50:21] **Masterson:** Oh John, you see, he loved roofing. Loved, not only didn't mind getting up there, but liked it. I'm like, oh

[01:50:27] **Lemley:** only didn't mind

[01:50:30] **Wooten:** It is. It is. And

[01:50:32] **Lemley:** there, but liked it. I'm

[01:50:37] **Masterson:** hmm. Yeah, yeah.

[01:50:38] That

[01:50:38] **Lemley:** no! Yeah, it's

[01:50:41] **Wooten:** It is. It's something you do when you start, you take a picture of nothing, and then you go back and take a picture of something. And it's usually pretty, I mean, it's

[01:50:54] just

[01:50:54] as neat as it can be.

[01:50:56] Look at a piece of ground and next thing you know, you [01:51:00] put up a floor and a wall and a house and it's developed into this beautiful,

[01:51:06] Like

[01:51:06] a painting. I mean, it's like somebody painting, you know, it's just a beautiful fact at the end of it. And, uh, it makes you proud. It really makes you proud.

[01:51:14] **Masterson:** Do

[01:51:15] you

[01:51:15] **Lemley:** feel like that you saw more guys need to get taken down off a roof?

[01:51:22] **Wooten:** Yeah.

[01:51:23] **Lemley:** in recent years.

[01:51:24] **Wooten:** I've seen more guys that need to be coming off there, than a lot of them didn't. And uh, you hear of more deaths now, people falling out in the heat, than what

[01:51:33] **Masterson:** We do know of someone who died too.

[01:51:35] We sure do. Uh, working on his house on a ladder and heat stroke. It's, and he, uh,

[01:51:41] **Wooten:** he

[01:51:41] died.

[01:51:42] **Masterson:** and he died of heat

[01:51:43] **Wooten:** He fell off his ladder.

[01:51:45] Really good guy.

[01:51:46] **Masterson:** yeah, four summers, five summers

[01:51:48] **Wooten:** four or five summers ago. Yeah. Well.

[01:51:50] **Masterson:** Yeah, he, and there was no drugs involved or anything like that with this guy. Mm mm. Nope. That was just direct heat.

[01:51:58] **Lemley:** Well, Terry, I know, I know you're gonna have [01:52:00] to get to work,

[01:52:00] **Masterson:** I hate that. I'm having a ball.

[01:52:03] **Lemley:** me just ask you like a couple more broad questions. Um, what do you think is responsible for all the changes in the weather that you've experienced? You know, you mentioned, uh, like the difference in, in the working environment and the difference in when you have to be getting on the bus, all these different things.

[01:52:21] What do you, what do you think is causing it?

[01:52:22] **Masterson:** it? I don't know. I wonder. I wonder. And what I come, what I think of, maybe in my mind, is just, um, Like, you know, it goes back to the, the, the global warming. The factories and things that we're doing ourselves that we're putting out there into the, into the air. I think that we're destroying ourselves.

[01:52:41] I think that it's,

[01:52:41] **Wooten:** that

[01:52:42] **Masterson:** that's exactly what's happening. And I think that, um, We're, we're emitting too much pollution, and it's, it's destroying our, our protection.

[01:52:53] **Lemley:** So maybe the stuff you learned in seventh and eighth grade .

[01:52:56] **Wooten:** coming into play. It's coming into play.

[01:52:59] **Masterson:** and like, you know, [01:53:00] my poor grandfather, bless him. I love him so much, and he's been gone for a while now, and um, uh.

[01:53:06] As, as I thought that he was the silliest man I ever heard of growing up and then when I was in high school and what not and he turned out everything he said was so right. He was so right on. My granddaddy was a substance abuse counselor for the VA hospital for 37 years and you know that's a whole other thing there too so that was, that was my house.

[01:53:28] I had the cops and, and. And, and the drug police. And that's where I grew up. And, um, but, you know, I used to think that he didn't know anything in the world. I thought, what an old fuddy duddy. Um, you know, we are in, it's the 80s now, granddaddy. And, um, things are different than when you were young. Uh, but if I could just talk to him today, I would tell him he was so right about so many things.

[01:53:55] He was, he was right. And, uh, and, and, and that [01:54:00] stands, that's just, Our elders knew what was, I mean, they knew what was going on, and he probably could tell you more about what's happening with the, the, the weather, you know,

[01:54:10] **Lemley:** do you think he would,

[01:54:11] **Masterson:** I don't know, he, I don't know what he would say, he would probably say that, um,

[01:54:17] He was the one that said it was a bunch of hogwash you know before.

[01:54:20] There was a bunch of crazy talking, but I think that he might have come around too, you know. I don't

[01:54:25] **Lemley:** I don't know. I think that

[01:54:29] **Masterson:** he was right. That marijuana IS a drug. Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha! A gateway drug Granddaddy, You were right.

[01:54:37] He was. And, I'm gonna leave it at that. Just gonna leave it right

[01:54:41] **Lemley:** leave it

[01:54:42] **Wooten:** He was.

[01:54:43] Believe it or

[01:54:44] **Lemley:** He was. Do you feel like you have a voice in how climate, what's happening with climate change? Do you feel like you have, you have a say?

[01:54:57] **Masterson:** I, I don't know that I [01:55:00] particularly would or my age group, but I think that the young people today, the ones who have a mind to speak on it do, yeah.

[01:55:06] **Lemley:** What do you want them to know?

[01:55:08] **Masterson:** Um, I think that they, uh, that they have a voice to know that they, we're listening to them, I listen to

[01:55:14] **Wooten:** They matter, you

[01:55:15] **Masterson:** Yeah, they matter. Yeah, I learned from the young people. I need to know, I need for them to tell me what's going on out here and

[01:55:23] **Wooten:** what's the new story, yesterday? Because, uh,

[01:55:25] **Masterson:** Morning Glory?

[01:55:26] **Wooten:** we don't really know anymore. I mean, we don't, it's not the same as it was when we was growing up.

[01:55:30] It's all changed. Excuse me.

[01:55:33] **Masterson:** That's right.

[01:55:35] **Wooten:** So,

[01:55:35] uh,

[01:55:36] **Masterson:** tell them anything as ask them what they think about it.

[01:55:39] **Lemley:** Yeah.

[01:55:39] **Wooten:** Where does that come from in your mind? What do you think is the, you know, the reason for all this?

[01:55:45] **Lemley:** And then you have seen, everything we've pretty much talked about today is Madison, Old Hickory, right? Right.

[01:55:51] **Wooten:** Right.

[01:55:51] **Masterson:** hmm.

[01:55:52] **Lemley:** And, um,

[01:55:53] what do you want, the people that have the power to make decisions in Madison and this area, what do you, [01:56:00] what do you want them to know about what you need and what this neighborhood needs?

[01:56:04] **Masterson:** Well, I don't

[01:56:06] **Wooten:** a big question. That's a load of

[01:56:08] **Masterson:** Yeah, that's a big question for sure.

[01:56:10] **Wooten:** for sure. Oh.

[01:56:11] **Masterson:** So many things.

[01:56:13] **Wooten:** Uh, yes. Uh, more input, more getting involved.

[01:56:19] **Masterson:** The schools here when we were growing up used to be a big thing with the, you know, the little elementary schools in the area and the middle schools.

[01:56:26] We used to, there used to be a community, um, that the school, that school was involved in.

[01:56:32] **Wooten:** had Yeah. Hillbilly day.

[01:56:34] **Masterson:** things that

[01:56:35] **Wooten:** all that stuff growing up they was involved

[01:56:37] **Masterson:** or carnival school fairs,

[01:56:39] **Wooten:** yout, see none of that no more.

[01:56:41] **Masterson:** I don't know that they do that anymore I don't know that the churches have vacation Bible school Like we did

[01:56:47] **Lemley:** So you're missing time to get together just as

[01:56:51] **Wooten:** right? Yes.

[01:56:52] **Lemley:** hang out and talk about

[01:56:54] **Masterson:** Yes.

[01:56:54] We used to all meet together in the parking lot where Walmart is now. And, uh, I don't remember what [01:57:00] grocery store was there then. Uh, but there was a fireworks show there. We did, the neighborhood got together and did fireworks there on the

[01:57:07] **Wooten:** Yeah, you got the, you used to know who your neighbors was. Sure. Today you don't know who anybody is. Right. Nobody, it's not the man next door anymore or the boy next door. It's, uh, totally different now. We get on a whole new subject with all that. Yeah. But, uh. Yeah. Yeah. It's not the same as, uh, you used to know your neighbor.

[01:57:27] **Masterson:** That's right. That's

[01:57:29] **Wooten:** what would I tell my neighbor today? I don't know because I don't know him. So what do I want to tell my neighbor?

[01:57:35] **Masterson:** Yeah, that would be the emergency contact, like if your kid got sick at school, your neighbor,

[01:57:39] **Wooten:** he would to call my neighbor. She'd be glad, you know, to intervene in that situation.

[01:57:44] But now

[01:57:46] we don't know. We don't even know each other, right? No, we don't even know our neighbors.

[01:57:50] **Lemley:** be the last thing I'll ask about. Pastor Jay just popped his head in a few minutes ago. He shut the door, and that helped us with some sound. Also, he handed you a check. [01:58:00] And So tell, we started talking

about this a little bit at the beginning, what, this will be, David, maybe, maybe your last night in a tent ever is tonight?

[01:58:09] **Wooten:** be my last night in a tent right here. I'm gonna

[01:58:11] have a

[01:58:11] little celebration tonight in my tent because, uh, this is now over. He just gave me a check for the deposit on our place. And, uh, that is so grateful because now we can afford to move in and, uh,

[01:58:27] do this. it's been a long time coming

[01:58:28] It's been a long time coming. I'm tired.

[01:58:30] **Masterson:** I didn't believe this was ever going to happen. I really

[01:58:32] **Wooten:** was thinking we was going to be homeless forever now. I really did.

[01:58:35] **Masterson:** I really did too. I sat in that tent last year and said, This is, this is it.

[01:58:41] **Wooten:** We're gonna die in

[01:58:42] **Masterson:** going to die

[01:58:43] **Wooten:** right here living like this. And

[01:58:44] **Masterson:** And I said, I even said, You were born on that street, right across the street. Um, um, well, and, and that's,

[01:58:50] **Wooten:** In that neighborhood.

[01:58:51] **Masterson:** people have always said, Old David Reeves, Well, he was born there, he'll end up dying there.

[01:58:56] And, uh, And you know what? I don't know if that's not a bad thing.
[01:59:00] If we end up dying in Madison. We were born in Madison and I'll go out here in Madison. But I don't want to die on the street. You know?

[01:59:06] **Wooten:** No, I didn't want people to see me in a homeless situation I got to in

[01:59:10] **Masterson:** No, I don't want anybody else to ever have to ride down the street and see

[01:59:14] **Wooten:** afraid to talk about it today. You know, that's another thing.

[01:59:16] I would share this with anybody. It's part of my testimony. It's part of my life.

[01:59:22] It's a damn

[01:59:23] shame it got to where it got to.

[01:59:26] But it's,

[01:59:27] uh, it's a wonderful bunch of people out here that I do care.

[01:59:33] **Masterson:** No, yeah.

[01:59:34] **Wooten:** And when I say that, I say it with pride, uh,

[01:59:37] **Masterson:** We didn't know. We didn't believe it. I didn't

[01:59:39] **Wooten:** believe that you can change. I need people to believe that they can change, and there is change for them.

[01:59:46] If they give, they gotta give, they gotta put in to get it back. But it's there.

[01:59:51] **Masterson:** And it sounds cheesy, it sounds corny, and, but, and we, I thought the same thing. I've heard it, I've heard many people say the same thing. You can do it [02:00:00] if, if, if you really want it. And, and, but you can. You really can. And I know it does sound so, so cheesy, but.

[02:00:09] **Wooten:** it's true.

[02:00:10] **Masterson:** is true, you can come out of it if you, it takes a while man, sometimes it takes a while.

[02:00:16] Uh, but you gotta know that there is, there is a light at the end of it, there really is.

[02:00:21] **Wooten:** really is. We didn't

[02:00:22] think we'd ever get a home. I mean, we had a voucher now for two months, and it didn't seem like we were going to be able to use it.

[02:00:28] We had the hardest time. Things kept going against us. Everything. Even

[02:00:32] voucher,

[02:00:32] Even when we, we winded. I was upset about getting the voucher. Then we got the voucher, and I mean, damned if we couldn't do nothing with it.

[02:00:41] **Lemley:** that's what I've heard. Yeah.

[02:00:42] **Wooten:** Yeah, we sat on it for two months. And, uh, could not put it into effect.

[02:00:47] **Lemley:** But you got that call

[02:00:48] **Masterson:** Finally got it

[02:00:49] **Wooten:** got that call

[02:00:51] **Masterson:** been finally approved,

[02:00:52] **Wooten:** up, and,

[02:00:53] **Masterson:** background's looking okay finally, and we don't have to, that's crazy. Oh

[02:00:58] **Lemley:** gosh, you guys.[02:01:00]

[02:01:00] **Wooten:** it's been a tough one, but it's a, it's a well learned lesson out here. And, uh, you can't come out of it.

[02:01:06] **Lemley:** Well, thank you both. Um, Terry, one last thing. Uh, uh, you mentioned some native blood in your family? Okay, so

[02:01:14] who, who is

[02:01:14] **Masterson:** my grandfather was, um, full blooded Cherokee Indian, and he was born in old Hickory and, uh, his father passed away when he was young and he was raised by an aunt. Um, he was born in 1919. His name was Winfred Boland.

[02:01:32] My father was a junior and he, uh, he just, he grew up tough and poor and, and, uh, he went to World War II and he was a paratrooper and a double purple heart recipient. And he lies over at the National Cemetery with my dad. They're both just a few feet apart from each other and so proud of him. They were both soldiers, and I'm proud, so proud of both of them, and, uh, but I've got that warrior blood, you

[02:01:58] **Lemley:** do.

[02:01:59] **Masterson:** [02:02:00] and

[02:02:00] I, and I feel it, you know, I really do.

[02:02:02] I know I'm tough, and I know where it comes from. That's where it comes from, so.

[02:02:06] **Lemley:** Oh gosh, we could talk about him for an hour. Okay, so but we're going to wrap this. So I'm going to say this concludes the climate related brief oral history of David Wooten and Terry Masterson on Thursday, December 28 2023 that took place at City Road Chapel in Madison, Tennessee.

[02:02:21] Uh, I did two different, uh, sessions. We stopped, we stopped taping once and the total running time I would say is approximately two hours and two minutes. Um, thank you both so much.

[02:02:32] **Wooten:** Thank you.