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Interviewee:
Interviewer:

Crawford Swearingen Enochs
H. T. Holmes

Title: An interview with Crawford Swearingen Enochs,
October 21, 1974 / interviewed by H. T. Holmes

OH 75-10

Enochs, Crawford S. (Mrs. I. C.)

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75-10

NARRATOR: Mrs. I. C. Enochs
INTERVIEWER: H. T. Holmes, Department of Archives and History
DATE: October 21, 1974
PLACE: Mrs. Enochs' Home at 3503 Kings Highway, Jackson, Mississippi
SUBJECT: Enochs Family and the Edwards Hotel

Enochs: ...I had been married about a year, I guess, and they were certainly making the plans all along. Of course, they first tore down the old one; and then they drove those fifteen hundred pilings in that hole there! And then, what was left - what wouldn't go down in the ground - they cut that all off to put in the foundation. But my sister-in-law, who lived at the Enochs home out on West Capitol - we all lived out there - had those stumps removed. They were pine, and she had them taken out to the house, and for years and years we burned those things!

Holmes: They lasted that long?

Ehochs: Oh, yes! There were about fifteen hundred - I may be mistaken, I don't know how many there were. See, I can't remember anything definitely! But she did do that and that was when....But you were asking me about people who frequented the hotel....

Holmes: Well, I'm basically interested in everything. I think, as I told you over the telephone, I am unable to locate any records at all about the hotel, and I was excited to hear that Bill Green had some....

Enochs: ...Yes.

Holmes: ...And there are very few pictures of the inside of the hotel.

Enochs: Well, that's a pity because it really was an elegant establishment when it was first built.

Holmes: Well, the newspaper accounts say that it was, but they didn't bother to take a picture of the inside.

Enochs: Well, they weren't doing that, you see. Now, I'll tell you this. The architect was Mr. William Nolan from New Orleans....

Holmes: All right, what do you know about him. That's all I know - just his name and that he was from New Orleans.

Enochs: I believe he's dead, but his daughter, Mrs. Henry Pitot, Anita Nolan she was, lives in New Orleans and I think I have her address. The last I heard, we heard from Mr. Nolan was when my son was killed, and he wrote my husband a letter, and we never answered it in all the difficulties that were attached to that. He was going to answer, but he was so overcome that he never got down to answering any of the letters that he had said he was going to answer, and I had so

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many that that one slipped my mind. It's worried me ever since. That was in 1955. But Mr. Nolan was certainly living then, and I don't know how long....

Holmes: Did he have a firm with....

Enochs: I cannot remember....

Holmes: ...I wondered if the firm - you see, I was very interested in getting a copy of the plans for the hotel. Not only am I doing this for a thesis, but I want to leave behind in the archives a large volume of material....

Enochs: Oh, yes. Well, now, I'll get you Mrs. Pitot's address; and if I can't find it I can get it from - or you can get it from the Newcomb Alumnae - she's a graduate of Newcomb College. Then, a Mr. Billingsley, of the firm of something, something, and Billingsley, were the engineers - the contractors....

Holmes: Were they from Jackson?

Enochs: No, they were from New Orleans. Both of them were from New Orleans. Marshall Field & Company did the interiors. They designed the light fixtures for the public rooms. That is one of them....

Holmes: Oh, really!

Enochs: There were six of those in the lobby....

Holmes: Now, for the purpose of the tape, this is the chandelier or light fixture over the dining room table.

Enochs: Yes. That was in the lobby. There were six of those in the lobby; and in my little front entrance hall there's another one that was also in the lobby - went down the long hall, I've forgotten how many there were of those. But that thing is heavy as all get-out. I had a lot of the stuff taken out of the inside to make it more suitable for a residence, and it's been greatly admired. I think it's very....

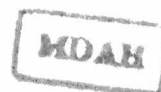
Holmes: ...It's very pretty.

Enochs: It was specially designed, these things were, for the hotel. The main dining room was a perfectly beautiful room. It was decorated in Adam style. It had the great medallion around the center fixture, and had medallions on the walls; and had lovely crystal and handsome appointments - beautiful china - and it was the mecca for all the young people. On Sunday nights they went there for dinner....

Holmes: I want to get to that in a minute. I've heard a lot about Sunday nights at the Edwards. But what pattern of china, do you recall?

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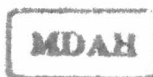
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- Enochs: I do not remember what it was. As a matter of fact, I don't think I ever went down there. We moved away in 1924, we moved out to West Texas and lived out there - but that was a very beautiful room, and they had quite a gala, you know, the night of the opening. I don't even think I went to it. I can't even remember. I think I had a new baby about that time! I'm not certain. It is sort of vague. That was 1923, I think it was.
- Holmes: Yes, December 31, I think is when it opened up.
- Enochs: Yes, I think that's when it was. But I know that for two years, about every six or seven weeks my husband and his two older sisters would get on the Panama Limited and go to Chicago to confer with the decorators there at Marshall Field and Company. To this day, the furnishings that were originally in there are in use in my family - scattered - well my children have some, I have some. I have two little chairs in my bedroom that were on the mezzanine floor, my daughter has two I know. We used some of the dressers out of the bedrooms. They were heavy as lead! They were walnut and built to last forever. Just two years ago we had the legs taken off of a dresser that we had used in this house and we gave it to a friend. It made a nice looking piece for her living room. It was fine stuff. Nothing ever had been in Jackson that compared in real substantial, honest to goodness first class merchandise, so far as I know, for a public building.
- Holmes: That's something I'd like to ask you, too. Of course, the old Edwards House had been an institution in Jackson, a social center....
- Enochs: Oh, yes!
- Holmes: ...What prompted Mr. Enochs to build such a magnificent hotel when he already had the social center of Jackson there?
- Enochs: Well, the hotel was old and in bad need of repair. I'll tell you another thing. Mr. Enochs, Senior, died in 1919, I think, and he left a considerable estate; and Mr. Flowers was his son-in-law and was at that time the head of the business. He succeeded Mr. Enochs. My husband, they thought, was not experienced enough. He wasn't all that young, but anyhow he wasn't made president and he didn't want to do this. Mr. Flowers did, and they had the patronage, you see, and something had to be done. I think it was just really falling apart. I just do not know.
- Holmes: Do you remember the old hotel?
- Enochs: Oh, yes.
- Holmes: Would you talk about it; because I've only found two photographs of the old hotel, and they were in an Illinois Central magazine, of all places!

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Enochs: Yes....

Holmes: ...And I'm having them blown up.

Enochs: Was it a picture of the exterior, with the columns?

Holmes: It's a picture of the main part and then the annex....

Enochs: ...Annex. Well, the main part had columns across the front of it; and they used to have old-timey rocking chairs there, and the drummers, you know, that's what they called the salesmen, sat, spent their time just watching the world go by. There was nothing for them to do at night or in the late afternoon, so they'd sit in those rockers! And I remember it was a part of our entertainment as young girls to ride down Capitol Street in front of the hotel and see who was sitting on the porch! But the fraternities at Millsaps College used to have their dances there - I know the Kappa Alphas always did....

Holmes: ...In the old Edwards....

Enochs: ...In the old...and I went to a number of those, but Mr. Enochs never would take me down there for Sunday dinner with the rest of them! I don't know why...he didn't care about going down there, so I wasn't one of those that went. I just married the owner! (laughter) But it was very popular. Then, of course, after the new hotel was built, and after oil was discovered in the state of Mississippi, that was the headquarters of all of the oil people. My father was appointed oil and gas supervisor when the first oil came in, and he had retired; but he had made a study, just on his own, of the geology of the state of Mississippi with reference to oil, and so Governor Conner appointed him. That's where he went every morning, and that's where he hobnobbed with the oil people. He knew them all - from the roughnecks up to the rest of them. So a lot of people were there, and, of course, it had been for many years a political headquarters.

Holmes: I was going to say we have a letter head of the King Edward - of the Edwards House - from 1900 when Longino was governor, and....

Enochs: He was my uncle.

Holmes: He was!

Enochs: Yes.

Holmes: I believe Miss Capers said that, and she wanted me to ask you about that later. This letterhead says "political headquarters of the state." Even that early, it was....

Enochs: Yes. Well that was the year he was...he was governor from 1900 to 1904, and....

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- Holmes: During his term the New Capitol was built, and he lived at the Edwards while the Governor's Mansion was being renovated.
- Enochs: Of course, I don't remember that, because I was just here then. But I know this. My father was a professor at Millsaps College and he already had a master's degree when he and Mother were married, and he went in the summers to Chicago to work on his doctorate, and while he was away, Mother and I spent the three months he was gone at the Governor's Mansion....
- Holmes: Oh, really?
- Enochs: ...Mrs. Longino was my mother's oldest sister, so Mother, I guess, closed the house, I don't know. But we went down there. I heard her tell it; of course, I don't remember it, I was too young. I was born in 1899, so I don't remember any of that. But I have a picture of me, and Annie Ramsey Longino Wells, my cousin who was two years older than I...when we were little bitty things...out on the lawn. I've heard Mother tell about that, and....
- Holmes: Well, it's just a shame that you were just small enough not to remember anything about staying in the Governor's Mansion.
- Enochs: Yes, that's right. My aunt, Mrs. Cooper, was married there during Governor Longino's administration and....
- Holmes: ...She was married in the Mansion?
- Enochs: ...In the Mansion. And then the youngest of the Longino children was born there and she is the only child of an executive who has ever been born at the Governor's Mansion - up to date.
- Holmes: Well, this is very interesting. You know, the Department is restoring the Mansion....
- Enochs: Oh, yes, I know that.
- Holmes: ...And Miss Capers wants to write a history of the Mansion when it's through, and she is interested in tidbits of information like this. I'll pass this on to her.
- Enochs: Yes, yes. Well, I don't know a whole lot about it but I do know that. Of course, we have several funny stories from that about the Longino children. There were five of them, three boys, and Mrs. Durham, the youngest one is the only one that's living now. But, oh, they had some funny tales about those children! The convicts you know, were the servants at that time, the trustys. One of the Longino boys couldn't stand the striped clothes. He'd go get his father's clothes and take them and try and give them to the convicts! (Laughter)
- Holmes: ...So he wouldn't have to look at the clothes!

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- Enochs: Yes! Of course, the convicts refused, but it was funny! But back to the hotel. I'll tell you one thing. The McIntyres, Jack McIntyre had been a druggist. He'd had a drug store in the old building and he wanted to be in the new one. The fixtures in that drug store were perfectly beautiful! They were walnut....
- Holmes: My word!
- Enochs: Yes, they were handsome! Marble soda fountain, you know, and all of that. I don't know whether or not that marble mantel in the living room is from that soda fountain. Somebody seemed to think it was. I bought it for scrap marble down here....Those fixtures, well, you don't see anything like them any more. They were walnut and they had this little Adam design on them, very ritzy!
- Holmes: Let me ask you this about the old hotel, to go back to it. The dining room. Miss Capers and I were up to Mrs. Walter Sillers' house two or three weeks ago to talk to her, and there were several women there who had been at the old Edwards, and they were talking about moss hanging from the ceiling of the dining room. And that's all they said about it, and I didn't know what they were talking about.
- Enochs: Maybe it was cobwebs, and they couldn't see! (Laughter)
- Holmes: By the way they were talking it seemed to be like it was moss hanging on trees....It sounded awfully bizarre to me....
- Enochs: Yes, I'm sure it did. I don't remember that. I was in my teens, late teens, when I went down there to several dances, and I didn't pay any attention to what the place looked like....
- Holmes: Where were the dances held?
- Enochs: They were held in the big dining room....
- Holmes: ...Which is on the main floor....
- Enochs: ...Yes, you walked all the way through and off to the right was this great big room. But I have a friend here, Mrs. Lewis Ridgway, who used to go down there a lot. She might be able to tell you more. I'll call her and ask her about the "hanging moss," because I don't remember that. The Sillers used to stay always at the Edwards Hotel, and all the important political people stayed there.
- Holmes: I think Mr. Sillers moved into the Edwards when he first came to the Legislature in 1916, and he stayed there until it was integrated and he moved to the Robert E. Lee. So he was there in the old one and in the new one.
- Enochs: Have you heard anything about whether there's anything under foot about doing anything with that building now? I don't even know who owns it.

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- Holmes: It breaks my heart to see it. I wish I had the money to buy it....
- Enochs: Well I wish I had the money to fix it up. I've already got a plan for it!
- Holmes: Oh, really?
- Enochs: Yes. It's too late now, I imagine, but you know, this town is full of well-to-do widows. And they've all moved out to North Hills Square, and to the Ambassador Apartments, and all of that; now they are afraid to go into town. My sister and I have talked a lot about this. That would have been a splendid place to make apartments...with a big dining room that was more like a tearoom, you know, but they could make real apartments with the kitchenettes and all of that, have a mini-bus that would take those people to the banks - or they could walk to the bank, they could walk to the auditorium, and be driven back. The churches are all down there. In that lobby, they could remove that escalator and put tiny little shops, make a mall in the lobby there, just the things that people need, you know. A little drug store, a little cosmetics, a small beauty parlor, magazines maybe - whatever. But I think it's too late now. It would have taken so much money - the plumbing would have - I'm sure that the pipes were copper pipes when they were put in, but everything in it like that would - have to be done over. But the rooms were large, you see....
- Holmes: Yes, that's what I understand. I think that's very interesting, because some young people at work and I have lamented the fact that the Edwards is just sitting there, and we were thinking how wonderful it would be to turn it into an apartment house, you know, to move back downtown. I think that's the only way the downtown is going to be saved is to get people to live down there....
- Enochs: It would....You see, they first complained because of the noise of the railroad. All hotels in small towns used to be built right at the railroad. That was just the place. Mr. Enochs had great faith in that part of town being built up, and that's where he wanted the hotel. I mean my husband's father. Now there are so few trains, but you know that if people can sleep in airports that enough tile - acoustical stuff - can be put in; and they could even seal off all of that west side there. With air conditioning, they don't need to hear much of that noise.
- Holmes: My father was in the legislature over twenty years ago, and when I was very small, I remember coming with him and staying at the Edwards. The only thing I remember about it is waking up in the middle of the night and looking out the window to see the trains. I asked Mrs. Sillers if the trains ever bothered them, and she said no because they were always on the east side.
- Enochs: Yes. You see, that noise doesn't carry very far; and that building, of course, was thick. The walls were pretty thick. But it is a pity

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that nothing has been done about it. You see, we lost it during the Depression to the bond holders, and then we bought it back; and I cannot remember...we made a loan from the Lamar Life Insurance Company and bought it back. Then Bill Green came over here, and about that time the Holiday Inns came in, and air conditioning; and all the things that would make the hotels like that, not very comfortable. People were spoiled by that time, and then Mr. Milner wanted to buy it and we thought at the time that...but I don't remember much about that. I was in on it, of course, because my husband died before he paid it out. I think he just maybe used it to charge off on his income tax. I don't know; because he never made anything out of it, I'm sure....

Holmes: Well, it's the consensus that he ruined the architecture of the interior when he did all that remodeling....

Enochs: He did! He took all these things out and put those shabby things... that thing (the chandelier) - we had to fix a special arrangement in the attic to hold it. He put those lights, the funny looking little brass fixtures in there, and put the escalator, and....

Holmes: ...Covered over the....

Enochs: ...Covered over the well. He did a lot of things. But my sisters-in-law, one of them especially, Martha - Miss Martha Enochs - loved interior decorating. She loved to do things; and she kept that hotel up. She would make with her own hands the draperies for the ballroom up there after things got so bad off and all. She loved doing it and she did a whole lot for the hotel. They used to take flowers down there and do all kinds of things. They worked hard to keep it going, but, of course, they couldn't keep it up....

Holmes: Could we, if you don't mind, go over the history of the hotel? You said you lost it during the Depression. Could you recount that for me, please ma'am?

Enochs: Yes. Well, we were living in - were we living in Texas then? Let me see. No, I guess we were living here. Yes, we were. We had moved back from Texas in about 1933, and we were living at my mother's. That was about the time that they lost the hotel to the bond holders; and Mr. J. B. Buchanan - they always spoke of him as "Ole Man Buck" - was the head of the thing. I don't know what you'd call him, so he took over the hotel then and he ran it. And Hood Vest was assistant, then became manager, I believe, for a short period of time....

Holmes: This was in 1933?

Enochs: I believe so. At least we lost it during that time. I cannot remember the exact date. I tried to find some papers of some kind, but I could not find a thing.

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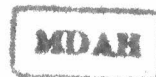
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- Holmes: Well, I may have told you this Friday, but I've been trying to do a title search on the property from 1861, you know, when the Confederate House was built, and I'm stymied. So far, I haven't been able to find anything.
- Enochs: Yes. Well, I don't know if even the records that you might find or that Bill Green might dig up for you would tell you that.
- Holmes: Well, it is my hope that Mr. Milner has kind of stuck all of the old records in a vacant room when he took over.
- Enochs: I met, Friday, at the Kidney Foundation luncheon, a woman who lives up the street here. I was introduced to her, and she said, "Mrs. Enochs, I used to know you. I worked at the Edwards Hotel for years and years." I'm sure that I knew her; but I was down there so little, and she knew everybody that had been down there. I asked her if she'd have any idea where those records might be. Of course, she said she did not know; and I can't think of anybody else that would know anything about them. I don't know why Mr. Milner would be so adamant about it. He just won't talk to you?
- Holmes: Well, I've called his office two or three times and they say that he's always out. His secretary said that I needed to talk to Mr. Blackwood, and that's all she would say, and he was always out, too. Every time I call, she says, "Well, your name is on his desk," and he never returned a call. That was in about June. Week before last, I wrote Mr. Milner a letter and told him the situation. Bill Green told me, when I told him the situation, he said, "You need to call Ralph Blackwood." If I don't hear from Mr. Milner this week, I'm going to give Mr. Blackwood a call.
- Enochs: Yes. Well, I don't even know where the storeroom was for all of that, because I was in and out so little....
- Holmes: I'm supposed to call Mr. Green tomorrow and set up an interview time. I don't know the man, don't know his personality. He didn't sound too excited about talking to me.
- Enochs: Well, he may not be. You see, I think he and Mr. Milner fell out. I'll tell you a funny thing that happened. Just last fall, I guess, or it may have been earlier in the year, I have a daughter who lives in Austin, Texas, and I go out there right frequently; and I was flying back from Austin, and a noisy somebody got on in Dallas, a man who talked like he'd had "one too many," and he met a friend on the plane, and they sat just sort of behind me and he talked in a loud tone of voice and rather ugly language. The stewardess came along and she said, "Listen, you've just got to cut out the obscenities!" So she called him down pretty good and he stopped that, but kept on talking. They began talking about business, and he said, "Well, Bill Green is back there at the Hilton in Jackson. He's going to ruin them. You know, all he wants to do is spend money." I was so shocked! I just

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listened. I've forgotten all the things he said, but I was interested in that because I knew that when Mr. Green came to work for us, and Mr. Enochs got him. We knew him over in Dallas at the Baker Hotel there. He came, and he did spend a lot of money. I know he did do that, and I just wonder if that was the reason he left Mr. Milner. I can't remember now, because, as I said, I was back out in Texas most of that time, but I was really interested! There was that man just blowing off to beat six-bits, and didn't have any idea that anybody around him was interested, except his pal he was talking to!

- Holmes: Well, I hope that Mr. Green will realize what I'm trying to do. Maybe I can win him over and then maybe he'll try to help me, you know.
- Enochs: I certainly hope he will. You know, his wife worked down there. She was his secretary.
- Holmes: At the Edwards. George Sturm was at the Edwards at one time....
- Enochs: Yes, but I don't expect George can remember much...but is he still at the Heidelberg?
- Holmes: He's at the Hilton....
- Enochs: Is he at the Hilton?
- Holmes: He's at the Hilton, too. I called him and he was in the hospital for surgery, but his secretary said to call him at the hospital because he's not that sick. So I called him and he said he'd be glad to talk to me after he got well, but I haven't called him back.
- Enochs: Yes. Well, he's full of conversation, I can tell you that! Good old George. I've known him a long time.
- Holmes: What about Charlie Miller? The only reason I know about him is because of a newspaper article. He was a desk clerk in 1923 when the hotel opened, and he was there when the hotel closed finally. In fact, they had a picture of him locking the door.
- Enochs: Yes. Well, now, I don't remember him. I knew a Mr. Guy and - who was that other man that was there - I knew those two. Then I knew a man, Forrest Runnels was his name, he used to be there and he went from the Edwards out to Texas and was at one of the Hilton hotels - the White Plaza Hotel in Dallas; and then he was at the Driscoll in Austin. That's a fine old hotel. The town has taken it over. They took up some money to save it. They were going to distroy it, and it was a landmark, and most interesting architecture....
- Holmes: Well, one of the outgrowths of what I'm doing, I hope, will be to get them, Edwards House, on the National Register of Historic Sites. I don't know whether you're familiar with this or not....

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Enochs: Yes...well, I know what it is, yes.

Holmes: You know, it will prevent any government money from being used to tear....

(End of Side One)

...Tell you about the tape, too. We'll transcribe this. You know, type it down and I'm going to go through and edit....

Enochs: Yes, I know you will....

Holmes: ...And then we'll send it to you and let you strike out anything you don't want. You see, what we're trying to do is...not only is this for my information, but in the oral history collection we want to make it available to the public, if anybody else is interested.

Enochs: Well, I think it's very interesting that you want to do that for the hotel.

Holmes: Like I said, it breaks my heart to pass by there; and I understand now that lots of transients on the railroad tracks stay there.

Enochs: Well, I'm sure they must! There's nothing to keep them out. You know, they had that marvelous artesian well there that has....

Holmes: I don't know too much about that. Could you elaborate on that?

Enochs: Well, when the hotel was built, maybe, oh, I don't know when it was discovered. But I think the old hotel used that water; and when they built the garage, it was piped into the various areas of the garage, and people would come and bring jugs, demijohns, small bottles. And there was a special hydrant where they could go right there and turn that tap on and fill their bottles and walk on home and never pay a cent for it.

Holmes: Somebody at lunch today, we were talking about the King Edward - we talk about it a lot....

Enochs: Well, that's very interesting to me.

Holmes: ...But Miss Capers and I, and Mr. Lyell, who is in insurance, I think....

Enochs: Louie Lyell?

Holmes: ...Louie Lyell. He was eating with us, and they were reminiscing about the hotel. One of them said that they remember taking their jugs down there to fill up. At the time, it just kind of "slid off of me."

Enochs: It was supposed to be very healthful; and people with kidney trouble would go there, and many people from all over town would patronize that

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place. You know, artesian water is very pure water, and, oh, it was very, very soft. You could hardly get the soap off. Then it was so wonderful to drink. It was so clear and so shiny in those pretty glasses when things were right. And I think that they had one of the earliest coffee shops in hotels in Mississippi, because I remember that was one of the features....

Holmes: Yes, I've seen big advertisements for it back in 1924. Let's get back ...we started talking about it earlier and I got you off on another subject - Sunday nights at the Edwards....

Enochs: Well, as I said, I'd have to find out from my friends about that. The young men used to take their girls down there for Sunday night dinner, and it was quite the thing. As I said, I never was invited! That didn't worry me very much! I don't know anything about it except that it was the accepted thing to do. There was nothing else much to do and so that's what they did. Everybody loved it, and the same groups would go and have a special table and all of that sort of thing. Of course, all of the conventions were there....

Holmes: ...It was the convention center. May I ask you this. Enoch Brothers was your father-in-law's original company, I believe, and they had the lumber company. They acquired the hotel, I believe, in 1900.

Enochs: Yes, I just read it in a book. I went downstairs and got the only thing I knew of, and it was so musty that I wouldn't bring it back here. I did read that. I thought there was more in it...there's a book over there, I don't know what...I had one or two books here...no...I have one on lumbermen somewhere. But it doesn't tell anything more than that. I don't know when the other brothers relinquished their participation in it....

Holmes: Where I got my information from was Dr. McCain's History of Jackson, you know, that he published in a big volume. I believe it was like 1913, somewhere along then, that the company was dissolved; and he said that Mr. Enoch emerged with the hotel - bought the hotel out. I guess other people took various parts....

Enochs: You know, there may be a story on John Ware in that book. Let me get it....

Holmes: ...Of the Edwards?

Enochs: ...Of the Edwards Hotel. Mr. Smith was the first one I ever knew about, and I don't remember whatever happened to him. I didn't...oh, this thing smells so bad!

Holmes: ...A musty old book!

Enochs: Who is this? Oh, Webb Buie. You know, you could get in here if you paid your money, and I was real sorry that we didn't put a story of my father in here, because he was one of the scholars....

Holmes: That's what Miss Capers was telling me; and she wanted me to pass along that I believe she and your sister have talked about getting together to talk about Jackson's history, and so forth. She wants to do that very soon....

Enochs: Well, good.

Holmes: I went to Millsaps, and your sister was there before I came, I think.

Enochs: Oh, did you?

Holmes: And then I was interested to hear your father was.....

Enochs: This is the picture and this is the story on Mr. Enochs. I have another story on him but...says "the liquidation of Enochs Brothers as a holding partnership was effected July 1, 1913. Thereafter, the main joint interest centered in Fernwood Lumber Company's investments outside the state of Mississippi. Enochs Lumber and Manufacturing Company..." wait now, ..."the prophetic vision of a new era for Jackson, Mississippi, Enochs Brothers purchased the Edwards Hotel which has been operating in Jackson since 1861, and were granted a charter on the Edwards House Company on April 20, 1900." That's all it says about him.

Holmes: I think it will go on to say that after they had dissolved, Mr. Enochs took over the hotel.

Enochs: Yes..."Edwards Hotel was acquired by I. C. Enochs." For awhile, it made a lot of money. This is a fine writeup here, really. I didn't know him, but my mother did, because he was a prominent Methodist....

Holmes: Now, this Mr. Enochs was your....

Enochs: ...My husband's father.

Holmes: Your father-in-law.

Enochs: Yes; and I never - he died in 1919, I think, and...it was after his death that all this other....

Holmes: I didn't know this so let me get this straight in my mind. He died in 1919....

Enochs: 1919.

Holmes: ...All right. And then....

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Enochs: ...I'll be sure about that.

Holmes: All right. Who was responsible for building the new Edwards?

Enochs: The children, the heirs.

Holmes: Which would be your husband....

Enochs: ...My husband, and his sisters, and the husband of one of them. He had one widowed sister and two unmarried sisters at the time, and one married sister whose husband, Edward - E. G. - Flowers, took over and he was the president. He died in 1945.

Holmes: All right, what was the name of their little company?

Enochs: It was called the Edwards House Company.

Holmes: It was still the Edwards House Company.

Enochs: Yes. Now you know, I actually have seen some papers about that...some sort of something. You know, it never occurred to me that there was anything in those papers that I ought to keep! I do have some, all the papers on some other transactions. You see, I came into possession of all those things and they just worried me to death, not having a business head and not paying much attention to things like that. I didn't willfully or carelessly dispose of the papers, but you know, you cannot keep everything!

Holmes: Well, let me say this about that. When the papers become outdated, bring them down to the Archives. We've got plenty of room down there.

Enochs: Yes. Well, I don't have any more now. What I have that's of real interest, I think, are the abstracts and the deeds on some land that Mr. Enochs bought out in West Texas, a hundred sections of land out there, in 1913, and the land was described in leagues and labores - in Spanish terminology - and I've got all of that stuff and that was what I was thinking of; and then he had another company down in Louisiana. He was instrumental in organizing two other things down in Louisiana - Biloxi Marshlands and Lake Eugenie Land and Development Company, something like that. Well, I've just got reams of stuff on those things, and since I get an income from some of them I'm holding on to them now. (Oh, there's a pin, my button didn't get moved!) It is interesting to me that businesses can continue to keep forever stuff like that.

Holmes: You know, we have a lot of old business records from the turn of the century. Of course, not nearly enough; but as you see, things about the King Edward are practically non-existent, and the records that we do have are quite valuable. So that's why I said that anything that you have...bring them down to us and....

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Enochs: Well, I will do that. I want to get you one little newspaper thing that you may already have seen. There was a young man from Greenville, Jerome Hafta. Do you happen to know him? Well, he's working on the Catching family, and my husband's mother was a Miss Catching. I found in some of my stuff some D.A.R. papers that had all of this, and there was one little newspaper article about...I think it's got something about the Edwards Hotel in it...this was something in...I thought I'd look and see about the rest of this. It doesn't say anything about the Edwards Hotel. I thought maybe it did...no, that's not it. I didn't remember. It has to do with the history of the Catching family. This is part of it - it's....

Holmes: ...It's an old letterhead....

Enochs: It's an old letterhead of the Enochs Manufacturing Company that's...

Holmes: ...1793. Well, I certainly appreciate your taking your time to....

Enochs: I wish I could help you....

Holmes: Well, I think you've helped me a lot, and I would like to ask you now, if the need arises when I need to fill in some more information, if I can come back!

Enochs: Oh, surely!

Holmes: And to ask you to pass on to anybody else....

Enochs: All right. Now, I'll just tell you, I may ask Miss Fannie Ware, Mrs. Fewell, Mrs. James Fewell, John Ware's sister. She may have some Edwards Hotel stuff. Has anybody mentioned her to you? Well, she's a sister of John Ware, and she lives with Mrs. Harley Shands (Mrs. H. R. Shands, Sr.) and you might get Charlotte to call her if you'd like to, and ask her. It would save two or three calls. I could call her, I know her real well and she's awfully sweet. She's old now, older than I am, and that's pretty old!

Holmes: Untrue! Untrue!

Enochs: I know I told you when I was born!

Holmes: You told me when you were born, but I certainly wouldn't believe....

Enochs: Well, anyhow, Fannie might have some very interesting things. I don't know how much...I haven't seen here in a long time now....

Holmes: Well, I intend to try to get in touch with Mrs. Thompson, too, Mrs. Maurice Thompson.

Enochs: Mrs. Maurice Thompson? She might be able to give you something. Of course, they came here late....

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Holmes: Well, I'm talking about the papers that Bill Green gave her.

Enochs: Oh, yes.

Holmes: I'm sure she hasn't thrown them away, since he hasn't been dead that long.

Enochs: Oh, I wouldn't think so. He hasn't been dead very long, has he?

Holmes: I think he died last spring.

Enochs: I didn't know them. I knew him only slightly. He was choir director at our church for awhile. Do you live here, now?

Holmes: Yes, ma'am. I'm from Winona originally.

Enochs: Yes. That's where the Trotters were from....

Holmes: That was before my time! I went to Millsaps, and I work at the legislature while they're in session, or have been, and then I work at the Archives, but....

Enochs: Yes. My brother was a professor of history, and he was a graduate of Millsaps College, and he was a Rhodes Scholar. He taught at Tulane six years, taught at Emory University a year when he was studying over there, and he got his doctorate at the University of Chicago; and he taught for years at Elmira College for Women at Elmira, New York. He was very much interested in things. He wrote his thesis on George Poindexter, who was a Mississippi senator. If he were alive he might be able to tell us some things; but I'm just trying to think if there's anybody else. But I think you and Charlotte would get more from Carolyn McLain, because they were practically the first people that moved in, took an apartment. They had an apartment....

Holmes: I'm going to look at my names....

Enochs: Yes. Are you a friend of Jess White's?

Holmes: I know Jess. Jess and I are acquaintances. I work for the House and....

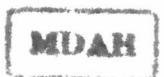
Enochs: Oh, I see; and he works with the Senate....

Holmes: ...And he's at the Senate and we rarely get to see each other. I have interviewed him with this program, the oral history program, and like him a lot....

Enochs: He's a nice young man, and I think he's very attractive. My sister and I belong to Common Cause and we were down at the Capitol last year when things were going on down there, working with Blessey and....

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Holmes: Oh, I like him a lot. I think he has a future in Mississippi. I apologize for my lack of calling cards!

Enochs: Yes. Listen I haven't got one either! I called up Tuckers to get some new ones and they called me back and said the plates were so old they couldn't use them! But they were my mother-in-law's. My cards had come from Tiffany in New York, and so during the war they wanted the copper so I let Tiffany - I had several plates up there, so I just told them to use them for the war effort, or give them to whoever it was that wanted them. I had this plate of Mrs. Enochs' and I've been using it all the years, and now I'm down to three cards and I just forget it!

Holmes: Well, I have some that I use in my work and I don't have my little book with me! I was caught short!

(End of Tape)

(Transcribed by Mary H. Mingee)

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