Mississippi Oral History Project

Hurricane Katrina Oral History Project

An Oral History

with

Jan Flowers

Interviewer: Beth Morgan

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Morgan: Well, I’m here in Clinton, Mississippi, interviewing Jan Flowers today. Jan, you had a house on the Coast?

Flowers: Yes, a condominium.

Morgan: OK, well tell me about your house on the Coast and the community that it was in.

Flowers: Acadian Village was a little group of forty condominiums and they were situated, Beth, in a horseshoe shape and in the center of the horseshoe was the courtyard which was the swimming pool and the grills and the picnic tables, and it was very much a little community. Most of the people that had condominiums there lived there; a few of them rented them out on occasion but most of them lived there. And I had had my condominium, actually my parents bought it back in ’83 I think, built it actually. We were the first one built in Acadian Village. And after my parents died I tried to keep it as much like they had it as possible but, you know, added some things and did some remodeling and refurbishing but it was truly our home away from home. It was a place that my family would gather on Thanksgiving, all of us or as many of us as could get away. And we went down there every possible opportunity that we could go. I went every weekend that I could.

Morgan: What city was it in?

Flowers: It was in Gulfport. It was located one mile from the Gulfport Grand Casino. It was on Beach Boulevard, of course facing the beach.

Morgan: Were you raised on the Coast or—

Flowers: No.

Morgan: —did your parents go there—

Flowers: No.
Morgan: —when they retired?

Flowers: No, they bought it for a weekend home and spent a good bit of time there.

Morgan: And where were you raised?

Flowers: I was raised right here in Jackson.

Morgan: But you’ve not had to weather hurricane warnings and—

Flowers: No.

Morgan: —things like that.

Flowers: No, mm-mm, no. In fact a friend of mine—I had been down the weekend before and there was a storm warning at that time, which nothing came of it. And then the weekend before the Monday of Katrina my good friend Zavia(?) and her family were down there as my guests for a family reunion. And she called me and she said, “Jan, they’re talking about a storm.” And I said, “Oh, they talk about storms all the time, don’t worry about it.” And she said, she called me back in about an hour and she said, “Jan, they’re taking the furniture in off the front porch.” And I had a brand new patio table and chairs that another friend had bought and put down there for me and I had never even seen it. And she said, “This is a beautiful table and chairs and I think we need to bring it in.” And I said, “Bring it in if you want to but you know they’re always having storm scares, I wish you wouldn’t get anxious.” And she said, “Well, I’m not anxious yet. We’re going to the Outlet Mall.” Well she called me back in about two hours after that and she said, “Jan, they’re evacuating the Coast.” And I said, “Oh, I can’t believe they’re so scared like that.” And in the meantime the day before, the homeowners’ president, our Homeowners’ Association president had called me and asked me would I come down that Saturday and take part in a going away party for our resident manager who kind of looked after things.

Morgan: That was the Saturday before Katrina hit.

Flowers: Yeah. And I said, “Oh, I want to be at Carol’s going away party but, gosh, I’ve kind of obligated myself to go make a girls’ trip to the Delta that day.” And I said, “But I really want to be there and let me call.” And two of my daughters were going with us and some of my girlfriends, and I said, “Let me call and see if they will be real annoyed if I don’t go.” So I did and they said, “No, now we had this planned, you’ve got to go.” And you know, Beth, they probably saved my life because had I been there I wouldn’t have left.

Morgan: Why was that?

Flowers: Well, because I guess I don’t have good sense. There’s so many people that panic at storms and I’m probably the opposite extreme. I just, I’ve never had any fear
of weather. And now I remember, vaguely, Camille. But I mostly remember my parents talking about it and going down there in bumper-to-bumper traffic to check on my uncle that lived down there and some other friends of my mother and daddy’s. But until you’ve seen something like that, I mean even having seen what I’ve seen on television, I just had no concept of the power of it and I just didn’t think that it would happen.

**Morgan:** And had y’all gotten any damage from Ivan—

**Flowers:** Never.

**Morgan:** —the year before?

**Flowers:** Never. Nothing. And it seemed like to me that a lot of people panicked then, too. And you know so, and probably I would’ve killed my friend if she hadn’t had better sense than to listen to me because she said, “Jan, I really think we need to leave. I think we’re going to have to go.” And I said, “Well, that’s up to you but I hate to see you cut your visit short because you’ve planned so many times to go down there and I just feel sure it’s going to be OK.” But, like I say, her parents were with her so fortunately they had the good sense to come home. And as I said, I would have, I would’ve stayed; I wouldn’t have left. For one thing the condominium was such a home to me and I can remember going there by myself or with a friend, but a lot of times I went by myself and just healed. The water, the essence of my parents, there was just such a peace about the place. I loved to sit on the front porch and watch the ocean and I particularly enjoyed it when it stormed; I mean I thought that was exciting and, you know, no, I wouldn’t have left, so.

**Morgan:** Did you entertain the idea [that] it would be interesting to watch Katrina come in?

**Flowers:** I did because I was thinking it would just be, you know, a hell of a storm. It never occurred to me, never occurred to me it could be anything like what it was, which is, you know, probably just real poor judgment on my part, so I’m glad, I’m glad I didn’t kill Zavia and I’m really kind of glad I wasn’t there. But when I found out that my little home had been destroyed, the first thing I responded with was, “I knew I should’ve been there.” (laughter) Now, analyze that, (laughter) you know. Like what could I have done? But it was so personal, it was—and I’m sure everybody feels that way. There were pictures there and I’ve anguished over why didn’t I bring that home, and the children would say to me, “Mother, this oil painting was so precious to your mother, why don’t you bring that home just, you know, so it’ll be safe?” But I would say to them, “But it belongs here, it’s part of the condominium, it’s part of our home here, and so”—

**Morgan:** So you were in the Delta that weekend?

**Flowers:** Yes, mm-hm.
Morgan: How long were you there?

Flowers: Just the day.

Morgan: OK, Saturday.

Flowers: Mm-hm.

Morgan: And you came back Sunday.

Flowers: Mm-hm.

Morgan: Tell me about watching the news or listening for the storm Sunday and Monday. Where were you?

Flowers: I watched it. I was at work and I watched it and I thought, you know all those poor people and I prayed for those people, and yet still I felt, you know it was kind of like a teenager who insists on driving too fast, they just think they’re impervious. And I don’t—I guess that’s what I thought. You know looking back it seems very foolish that I wasn’t more concerned but I think it had a lot to do with the fact that my parents owned it and I was an only child, very cherished, and my daddy always took care of everything and he always kept mother and I safe and met our needs, and was just such a wonderful husband and father, and he was just my strength. And I was thinking things like, and I was floating down the river of denial, too, of course, I just didn’t want to think it, but I would think, well daddy wouldn’t, you know, have a condominium built where I could get hurt, you know just crazy stuff. I think maybe, Beth, I was already in the early stages of grief at that point and that of course would be denial.

Morgan: When did your parents die?

Flowers: They died fifteen years ago; they died three months apart, both very suddenly. So, like Rhonda said that was really the last tangible part of them that I had and they were everywhere in there: something mother had given daddy, something daddy had given mother, that sort of thing.

Morgan: That Monday do you remember a particular time when the barge of denial began to dock for you?

Flowers: Yeah, I was on the way back from Meridian having taken my grandson back to school there and—

Morgan: Was that that Monday?
Flowers: Mm-hm. And I got a call from Jim Clark, the president of the Homeowners’ Association, and he said, “I’m calling about the condo.” And I said, “Well, how is it?” And he said, “Jan, it’s gone.” And I said, “No, it’s not gone but how bad is it?” And he said, “I don’t know how to put it any plainer, Jan, it’s a slab.” And it was like a death and I went through the whole thing of denial. My first thought was now why is he telling me this. And then I immediately started thinking about the people who had lost their homes down there because I knew if ours was gone, there were other people, and possibly people injured and hurt and I started praying for them. And then after I had that brief time of unselfishness, I went right back into the no this cannot happen, this just can’t be, that’s my parents’ place, that’s their stuff, you know.

Morgan: Were most of your neighbors permanent residents down there—

Flowers: Yes.

Morgan: —or were like you? OK.

Flowers: Yeah. A lot of them were permanent. And I had known a great many of them for all those years; some of them were there when the Acadian Village was built. But I mean it was much more of a community or even a little subdivision than it was, you know like a high—it wasn’t a high-rise condominium or anything like that, it was more of a little community and everybody pretty much knew everybody. New people would come and go but it was like new neighbors, you know, in a neighborhood.

Morgan: Were you able to contact any of your neighbors?

Flowers: No, couldn’t get in touch with anybody. In fact I’ve e-mailed some of them since then.

Morgan: But, um, has everyone, did everyone make it out of Acadian Village safely?

Flowers: Oh yeah. Yeah. Probably my dear friend Zavia was among the last to leave because of my bad advice, because I think there was lots of traffic. Was pretty hectic on the way home, but it was a lesson learned.

Morgan: What were the first visuals you got from the Coast? Was it television or—

Flowers: Well there was television. And someone e-mailed me an aerial shot of Acadian Village and you could see the perfect outline of the horseshoe; it was just all black. And you know it just took several days to sink in, I guess. But, you know, throughout this whole process, Beth, I was acutely aware that there were people far, far more worse off than I was; people who had lost their primary homes. And I was even hesitant a little bit in Sunday school and church, to ask for prayer for healing because you know others had lost so much more. And I had always been a big advocate of the phrase, in tragedies I would say, “Well, things can be replaced, people can’t.” And of course basically that’s true but it sounds a little trite now after I
realized, you know, how much that stuff meant to me and it was not monetary value, there wasn’t anything in there that was extremely valuable, it was just the sentimental value of it.

Morgan: Well, tell me about some of the things that were in the house.

Flowers: Well, there was an oil painting in the living room that my mother had seen in an art gallery and the artist was completing it when she saw it—and (laughter) you’d have to know my mama, she was quite a lady, but very outspoken—and she watched it for a few minutes and watched him and she said, “You know what this painting needs?” And he had not asked her and you know painters don’t, you know, usually are a little temperamental, but he said, “Excuse me.” And she said, “Would you like to know what that painting needs?” And he said, “Well I suppose so. What do you think it needs?” And she said, “It needs some life.” It was a boat in the water and a deck thing, a pier, and she said, “If you’ll paint a little man standing on the boat and a couple of sea gulls in the air, I’ll buy it.” And so he said, “Well I suppose I can do that.” So it always, every time we’ve looked at that painting we’d laugh and think, you know, my mother was the only person who would walk in the middle of a painter’s performance and tell him what he needs to do with it, but. (laughter) And then there was a captain about maybe twelve inches high, a statue of an old ship captain that was on, standing on the bar in the kitchen and Mother had given that to Daddy as a gift. And he had these piercing blue eyes and wherever you walked it was like he followed you, and so we always laughed and joked about him and I used to tell my grandchildren that that could be their granddaddy watching them so they better behave. In fact my friend who was there, Zavia called me and she said, “This little man on this counter in here is watching me. He follows me everywhere I go. Can I put him in the closet or something?” (laughter) And I said, “No, you can’t put him in the closet, he keeps watch over things.” So those were real sentimental things. And I had several pictures of family members on the beach and there at the condo and you know just good times that we had. And I’m not good about keeping up with negatives or anything like that, so of course they’re just lost. And when we went down there to actually view the place, one of the things I found was the frame that two of my grandsons were in, but it was just the frame.

Morgan: How long after the storm hit were you able to get down there?

Flowers: Well, my son and oldest daughter took it upon themselves to go down there just a few days afterward and not tell me, and that was a whole other situation, because they didn’t think I could handle it and I think they just didn’t want to bother with me because they said they had to climb over rooftops and so forth, but—

Morgan: And how did you feel about that presumption?

Flowers: Oh, I was furious. That was like the whole thing happening all over again. Looking back it’s not that big a deal now but I was devastated, absolutely devastated. I felt betrayed, I felt all these things and I said to them, “I raised four children, I’ve
helped raise seven grandchildren, you know what, with all I have been through in my life, two divorces, and I couldn’t handle it? You know, I can handle things y’all couldn’t begin to approach.” So I stayed really unhappy with them for about a week and that’s about as long as I can be mad at my children. So Erin(?) and a friend and I, my youngest daughter Erin and a guy friend of mine then, went down there a week later. And I had to see it. I guess it’s like when someone dies and the funeral gives you some closure, I kept saying you know, it can’t be gone or if it’s gone I need to see it. And it was pretty devastating. For one thing all the landmarks were gone so it was awkward knowing where it was. But at the place where the Waffle House is, which was a half a mile from it, there was a little crudely written sign on a piece of cardboard that said “Waffle House. We will be back.” So that gave me my bearings and I went on down the beach a ways and there were some high-rise condominiums kind of next door to us and there were parts of them still standing, so that’s really, that’s the only way I really knew where I was.

**Morgan:** Is that the Waffle House on [Highway] 49?

**Flowers:** No, on [Highway] 90.

**Morgan:** On 90.

**Flowers:** Mm-hm, we were on 90 facing the beach. And it wasn’t difficult of course to figure out which was my slab, so I just went and stood there for a few minutes and cried a little bit and then said, “OK, let’s see what we can do.” And we proceeded for the next seven hours to dig, to dig through mud and brick and metal and so forth. And I would have, I would’ve stayed all night; it was very hard for me to leave, very hard.

**Morgan:** I’ve heard other accounts that just even the smell of the air was rancid. Could you describe that for us?

**Flowers:** Yeah. One bad thing was, and it looked like to me, and one of the National Guardsmen who happened to be in that area patrolling agreed with me that he felt that, and I think most of our damage was caused from those tractor-trailer rigs flying through the air like surfboards. And you know if one of them had hit like the corner of our house it would’ve exploded.

**Morgan:** Where did the tractor—

**Flowers:** And they were everywhere.

**Morgan:** —trailer rigs come from?

**Flowers:** Well, they were docked down at the pier, the dock a ways down at the banana plant place where the bananas come in. And the guardsman told me that those things, when a storm reached a certain category number, that those things were supposed to be secured in a certain way. Now I don’t know that that would’ve even
mattered, I can’t see how it would, but he said they were not and that that’s what he felt like was causing the damage or a lot of it anyway. We had a tractor-trailer truck in the swimming pool and they were just everywhere all over the property. They were mostly intact, so you can just see the strength of them, the endurance and the significance but mostly we just had piles and piles and piles of brick walls and metal. And then you would come upon something like, and it was like, I mean as bad as it was and as ruined as it was, we would get so excited if we found any little thing, you know, that was ours and I would say, “Look, this is our sofa sleeper. Look at this, look at this. And it would be there and yet there would be, I could see just maybe a shred enough of fabric to know what it was but then it would just be the springs; it looked like a skeleton lying there. It just looked like death. And we would take the shovel and lift up the brick wall, and take the rake and rake out from under it and find things and pieces of things, of course. And one of the things that was so incredible to me was there would be stoves and washing machines and pieces of furniture just crumpled into balls. A lot of it you couldn’t really identify. A lot of it you could guess at what it had been. And then like under a pile of broken stuff there would be a piece of blown glass that wasn’t even hurt. I brought back a few bowls. There was an awful lot of Corning Ware and several glass pieces that were very intricate, very delicate and that to me was just astonishing. I believe what happened was when the water came I think they sunk and were protected somehow but what was on top of them. We found a lot of silverware, some jewelry, different things that came from different condos. And I brought a lot of it home and posted it on the Internet in hopes that somebody would identify some of it.

Morgan: Have the owners contacted you?

Flowers: No, nobody has. The thing about that is, as someone pointed out, those things could have come from miles. They wouldn’t even necessarily have to be right there. I had a little whimsical metal mobile that was hanging in my bedroom and it was different, you know, little girls, girls in bathing suits and a martini glass or something like, looked like, you know, and it said something about girls day at the beach and I found it intact. It was a little rusty but it was intact. And I had a blown glass swordfish that I’ll show you that was just, I think the tip of his little sword snout was broken but otherwise, and I had a little glass, oh what are the things, this other big fish, uh, porpoise that was intact.

Morgan: Were any of your parents’ possessions or pieces, were you able to salvage any of those?

Flowers: No, we—our focus was finding the captain, (laughter) you know we were on a mission but we never did find any piece of him or any part of that special oil painting. And a lot of the things had blown all the way back to the back of the lot and they had bulldozed the roads so the vehicles could get through, so I’m sure a lot of things were there, you know were crushed in that process. Erin had been there since I had and she said, “Mama, here’s the chair to this table and chairs that Lamar and Susan were going to surprise you with.” So we found three, four of those chairs. And
she saw the top of the table which was glass just laying out in the grass, this great big
glass-top table just sitting there not—

**Morgan:** Broken.

**Flowers:** Yeah. So and somehow I did feel better, Beth, after I saw it. There were
times when we felt real sick but it was mostly, I guess we were in the moment and we
were focused on, you know, saving whatever little pieces of memories we could.

**Morgan:** Did you worry at all about disease, about tetanus, or that you were
breathing something in? I think, you know, we got off on the banana trailers, but
describe again what the air smelled like when you were there?

**Flowers:** Oh, well that was what I was getting to. Some of these tractor-trailers were
carrying chicken, so (laughter) the stench was pretty strong but I’m a nurse and smells
don’t bother me. My youngest daughter Erin is very sensitive and she would (laughs)
dig and gag, and she would pick up something and she would have to stop and gag.
And she said at one point, “Mom, I’m pretty sure we’re dying here.” And I said,
“We’re not dying.” Now we were, she did step on a nail and we had to find, to check
for typhoid right away, but other than that, I don’t think—

**Morgan:** You weren’t concerned about salmonella or contagions from rotting meat?

**Flowers:** Um, no, but then you remember I wasn’t concerned about the hurricane
either (laughs). We worked really hard; we dug. And of course we had water with us
and we had the, you know, the liquid antiseptic that I use in nursing and we used a lot
of that, and we tried to be careful and we did have on gloves and boots. So, but no
there would not have probably been any condition there that would’ve kept me away.
There was just too much of a need to find anything if I could.

**Morgan:** Well, did you have any trouble getting through the National Guard or
checkpoints?

**Flowers:** No, because I had utility bills with the address on them.

**Morgan:** Well, tell me about the procedure for getting through checkpoints.

**Flowers:** Well, they had the National Guardsman stopping traffic there at the end of
49 where you turn onto 90, and he just said, “What’s your purpose here?” And I said,
“I have a home here.” And he said, “Do you have proof?” And I said, “Here’s my
utility bill.” And he said, “Well, you can come through.”

**Morgan:** Did you see them stopping and not letting some people through?

**Flowers:** Yeah. There were some people being turned around and sent back. And I
mean there were probably some people down there that were curious, you know just
curiosity seeking. And I understand there was a good bit of looting, too, but I mean if you looted anything out of a lot like mine, you worked for it because it was bad and it was deep. And I’m sure there was a lot more buried even deeper. I got a call from our president of the homeowners the other day, he said, “The insurance company is still trying to discern whether our flood policy is going to cover it or the storm policy is going to cover it.” So there hasn’t been anything as far as any rebuilding started yet, but he did say people were dumping things there and that he had arranged to have someone come out and finish bulldozing and then put up a fence and post it, you know to protect the property.

Morgan: Did you see any of your neighbors when you went down to go see it?

Flowers: No, there wasn’t anybody there that day. And there were so many things. There were some beautiful Gail Pittman pieces, some beautiful pewter pieces that were intact. Looked like most of a set of stainless steel, I mean of sterling silver flatware and things like that and I was very surprised that people were not down there looking. I mean I wanted to go the next day but I’m sure they, you know, went at different times, but you know, and then maybe because of the warnings they had better sense to go when I went, so. But finding those chairs was neat because that had been a gift from special friends. And you know if we could’ve just found the captain and that oil painting and maybe a couple of pictures of the kids. There were lots of pictures though, lots of pictures. One of the National Guardsmen came over and was helping me poke around and he said, “Ma’am, did you wear white in your wedding?” And I said, “Which one?” (laughter) He said, “This is the picture and it looks a little bit like you.” And it was a blonde lady, you know, and I said, “No.” It was someone’s wedding picture. And we tried to, anything like that we found we tried to put it somewhere like on display where maybe somebody would come along and see it. And like I say some of it we brought home, you know, in hopes that somebody would ask about it after I had posted it on the Internet.

Morgan: Is there a site for lost items or is it just a site that you created?

Flowers: No, it was just one that I set up with—we had a Web site, Acadian Village had a Web site, so—

Morgan: OK.

Flowers: I just put it there. No, and I really haven’t heard anything from anybody and I’m thinking it’s probably because those were not their things, they probably came from somewhere else. But how could something as heavy as a piece of Arthur Court pewter, you know, you just wonder and not even be bent, or glassware or something like that, it surely didn’t fly from a block down the road. But now the guardsman told us that they were finding, people were finding things a block, two blocks, three blocks from their homes. So I very much, like I said, wanted to stay and look further on down the beach but my companions were tired and we, none of us realized how tired we were until we got home. But we had taken a truckload of supplies down there,
bottled water, and gosh the truck was piled up high with dog and cat food and cat litter for the animals, the Rescue Leagues and so forth.

Morgan: Have you been down since that?

Flowers: Mm-hm, I’ve been one more time because I wanted to sleep on my slab, it sounds so crazy, but I just put a blow-up mattress in the back of the car and took it with me.

Morgan: That’s nice. When was that?

Flowers: That was probably (inaudible) weeks ago.

Morgan: So at the end of December you went down to sleep on your slab.

Flowers: Mm-hm.

Morgan: How was that?

Flowers: It was good and it brought to my mind the fact that it wasn’t the building, it wasn’t the house, it wasn’t the structure itself that I loved so much, it was just the fact that my parents had been there and that I—it was memories. And the memories were not gone. The memories are still very much intact and that was, that was a neat thing. That was really, really a neat thing to me. And I realized, you know, I could go back down there. I wouldn’t see their things. I wouldn’t see those items that were precious but I could go back down there and literally just be on that slab, be in that place and look at the ocean, which was somewhat different, and I could still feel the same peace that I had felt when I was in the nice little house, so that was special.

Morgan: Do you feel like your parents are proud of their little girl because she’s still standing?

Flowers: (laughter) I’m sure they are. I’m sure they are.

Morgan: Well, what are your plans now? Have you thought about rebuilding or what?

Flowers: Yeah, I think we’ll rebuild if things work well with the insurance company. I think so. It can’t be the same and I’m sure that’s what everybody who’s lost a home is thinking you can’t—there are things you can’t replace. But yeah, I’m sure we will replace it because I had a lot of friends that went down and spent weekends or a week, and I had rented it out a little bit just kind of to cover utility bills and things like that, association bills, but you know I was always real careful who I rented it to. I didn’t want anybody smoking in it or you know, being rowdy. So yeah, I feel sure we’ll rebuild.
Morgan: So is your condo manager working as sort of a broker between you and the insurance companies?

Flowers: Well, that would be the Homeowners’ Association president because the manager had just resigned and left Monday morning to go to, go home to Memphis, and the new manager had just closed on her little condominium Sunday afternoon.

Morgan: Ow.

Flowers: Yeah, just closed on it. So I don’t know.

Morgan: So the homeowner president is working—

Flowers: He’s kind of—

Morgan: —with the insurance—

Flowers: Yeah, he’s in charge.

Morgan: —companies negotiating?

Flowers: Yeah, and he is a professional man and a very, a very reliable person to deal with this and has really taken charge. And of course being a single person I’m very grateful for that because, you know, I probably wouldn’t manage that really as well as he has. So he’s just keeping us abreast of what’s going on and taking care of things.

Morgan: Are y’all even to the point where you can discuss we’re going to build it back just like it was or we’re going to look at new architectural plans?

Flowers: No, we’re not even at that point. I know that Jim has polled the homeowners there to ask them, you know, mostly to find out if they want to rebuild and so far the majority do, so I really don’t know where we’ll go from here. I’m just kind of waiting to hear from him.

Morgan: Do you have any plans to head back down?

Flowers: I’d like to go back down with a group from the church and work. And we’ve got, you know, a lot of things planned in that direction but I don’t know, going down there and sleeping on my slab (laughter) just brought me so much healing. And then of course at that point I was able to travel up and down the Coast a little easier, though. You know the Grand Casino wasn’t slap in the middle of 90 like it was the first time, and you know I could see the damage that was done to peoples’ primary homes and that was just staggering.

Morgan: What other cities have you seen besides Gulfport?
Flowers: I saw some of Long Beach because we were just a few miles from Long Beach, we were down on that end. Long Beach and, couldn’t get across the river to go to Bay St. Louis yet and couldn’t get across the other way to go to Ocean Springs. But I saw a lot of old landmarks. Chimney’s Restaurant was in a great, big, old, white antebellum home, beautiful place, lots of glassed, you know glassed-in porches. And the First Baptist Church was gone. And I think the Methodist church, the steeple was standing. So I mean it’s a life-changing experience to see that. Somebody sent me a picture on the Internet the other day of the waves when they were—and I don’t know what this—this had to be aerial but I got just instantly nauseated. It just made me sick at my stomach and I thought, am I seasick or what, but it was just so powerful.

Morgan: Was it a video or a still picture?

Flowers: This was a still picture of waves that you could tell were over the trees and it was just incredible, just incredible, that kind of power. And of course the overall, I think, essence of what I’ve learned from all of this was we’re not in control. We don’t have control.

(End of interview)