The afternoon of May 20, 2008, Matt Hopper and I interviewed Bernard Dunn at the University of Mississippi’s Student Union Mail Room. I arrived at the Union a few minutes before four p.m. and walked into the lower floor of the Union. I had no idea exactly where the interview was, but thankfully I ran into Hopper in front of the Union’s Post Office. He informed me that he had just returned from visiting his grandmother, who was thought to have had a heart attack the previous evening. It was obvious that Hopper was still shaken from the incident and that his mind was preoccupied.

Hopper took me down to the first floor of the Union, which acts as the emergency storm shelter, and into the Mail Room of the Union where Dunn greeted us. Dunn was dressed in a grey polo, black slacks, and black shoes. His black hair was graying around the ears. Both Hopper and I had met Dunn at our previous interview with Dunn’s brother, Avery, on Sunday, May 18, 2008. Dunn informed us that it would be a few minutes before the office where we could conduct the interview would be free for us to use. Hopper and I began assembling the equipment while Dunn finished up some last minute business.

When the office became available, Hopper and I immediately began setting up the equipment. The office was in the back of the sorting room for the mail. It was a concrete room with concrete floors and a few pieces of office furniture was scattered throughout the room. The door to the office could not be properly closed, allowing noise from the outside room to filter into the office. Dunn sat in front of a computer, which accounts for the electronic hum heard in the recording, and during the interview some of Dunn’s co-workers began talking loudly outside of the office as well as one person blowing their nose loudly. I also accidentally dropped my notepad about three-fourths of the way through the interview.

Because Hopper was preoccupied with the state of his grandmother’s health, his portion of the interview only lasted approximately seven minutes. He inquired about the familial connections/inheritance of Gospel music. When he ran out of questions he opened the floor to me. I then asked my questions. The main subject about my inquiry was to get a feeling for the Gospel scene in Oxford to understand that atmosphere that Dunn was raised in and continued to participate in. This gave context to the answers he gave to Hopper’s questions. The interview lasted approximately 20 minutes.

Both Hopper and I knew that this interview would probably not last very long because Avery Dunn had warned us that his brother was not very talkative.