Fred C. Bryant was the retired executive director [1996–2016] of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute [CKWRI] and served as an advisor to the East Foundation for nearly a decade; growing up near San Antonio, his grandfather’s love of horses and hunting, attending high school [00:00:59]; attending Texas Tech University [00:02:18]; limited involvement with FFA in high school [00:03:41]; bottle feeding orphaned Angora goats for his grandfather [00:04:08]; developing love of hunting from his grandfather, seeing no conflict between hunting and conservation [00:05:29]; knowing in high school he wanted a career in the outdoors, majoring in wildlife management at Texas Tech [00:07:17]; why he chose an academic path [00:09:35]; his strong belief in doing applied research [00:10:45]; applying to master’s programs, getting into wildlife biology program at Utah State University [00:13:15]; studying wild turkey population north of Zion National Park [00:16:19]; working for rancher in exchange for horse [00:18:13]; takeaways from his research in Utah [00:19:23]; professor at Utah State recommending him for PhD program at Texas A&M University [00:21:03]; his interest in intersection of range and wildlife management [00:22:42]; working at Sonora Experiment Station as a doctoral student at A&M [00:23:45]; his PhD dissertation research regarding white-tailed deer [00:26:03]; applying for academic positions after earning PhD [00:28:45]; accepting a professorship at Texas Tech [00:30:55]; participating in animal management grant through Texas Tech, building experiment station in Peru, Texas Tech pulling out of Peru due to terrorist attacks [00:32:44]; research and teaching at Texas Tech [00:38:55]; taking students on field trip to Vermejo Park Ranch [00:40:32]; how he came to be director at CKWRI [00:41:40]; changing the culture at CKWRI [00:46:01]; potential he saw in CKWRI [00:46:50]; research CKWRI was doing when he took job [00:48:29]; campaign to raise awareness of CKWRI’s work [00:48:57]; position as assistant vice provost of research at Texas Tech [00:50:08]; quail research at CKWRI [00:51:21]; getting to know South Texas ranchers [00:53:49]; new landowners’ concerns about broader ecosystem [00:57:10]; putting ten-year studies into place at CKWRI [00:58:54]; Robert East’s management style [01:02:30]; meeting Robert at anniversary celebration of King Ranch [01:03:40]; funny story he heard about Robert [01:04:16]; more on meeting Robert at
anniversary celebration of King Ranch |01:05:50|; attending Robert’s funeral |01:08:01|; Caesar Kleberg’s influence on Robert |01:11:56|; Ron Davidson asking him to serve as advisor to East Foundation Board of Trustees, advisors butting heads with trustees |01:15:26|; early recommendations that advisors made to trustees, more on advisors butting heads with trustees |01:19:57|; Bryan Wagner joining East Foundation Board of Directors |01:25:51|; hiring of Neal Wilkins as president and CEO of East Foundation |01:30:23|; serving on East Foundation’s Professional Advisors Group under Wilkins |01:32:00|; blend of wildlife and range management in East Foundation’s mission |01:33:00|; Behind the Gates educational program |01:36:33|; thoughts on increasing specialization in academia |01:38:01|; reflecting upon his career and friendships |01:41:48|; his relocation plans |01:44:08|; borrowing an outhouse during his master’s program |01:44:41|; wrapping up interview |01:46:42|. 