

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT

You have been asked for information to be used in connection with the Oral History Program at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. The purpose of this program is to gather and preserve information for historical and scholarly use.

A tape recording of your interview will be made by the interviewer, and a typescript of the tape will be made and submitted to you for editing. The final retyped and edited transcript, together with the tape of the interview will then be placed in the oral history collection at Jackson State University Jackson, Mississippi. Other institutions or persons may obtain a copy. These materials may be made available for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publication, or for other related purposes.

I, Bettie Gray-, have read the above and, in view of the historical and scholarly value of this information, and in return for a final typed copy of the transcript, I knowingly and voluntarily permit Jackson State University, Jackson, the full use of this information. I hereby grant and assign all my rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now know, recognized, or contemplated, to Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

Bettie Gray-
Interviewee Signature)

Oct 13 74
Date

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mrs. Betty Gray is a seventy-two year old black woman who resides at 607 West Pearl Street. She was born in Jackson in 1903. Mrs. Gray came from a family of seven of which she was the youngest member. She left school in the eight grade following the death of her mother. In 1918, she married James Gray. Mrs. Gray worked as a maid in private homes. She now lives alone except for her faithful dog.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

The interview was conducted in the home of Mrs. Betty Gray on Pearl Street here in Jackson, Mississippi. Mrs. Gray lives alone except for her dog which is heard barking in the background.

She remembers "Good Times" as a child growing up in the Jefferson Street area of Jackson, Mississippi - the school days, the games, the family interactions.

I thought it interesting that Mrs. Gray remembered seeing Booker T. Washington at the Fairground in her neighborhood as a child. "Good Times"^{also} included going to the fair, playing ball and just playing with other children.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERVIEWEE: MRS. BETTY GRAY

INTERVIEWER: DEBORAH DENARD

SUBJECT: " THE GOOD OLE DAYS "

PLACE: 607 West Pearl St.

DATE: April 11, 1976

D: MRS. GRAY, WHEN YOU HEAR THE PHRASE "THE GOOD OLE DAYS"
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

G: WELL, IT MEANT PLEASURE...WELL, ITS ~~A IT~~ JUST A LOT OF
CHANGES IN THE OLD DAYS.

D: UN HUM. WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST RECOLLECTION OF JACKSON
WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL? WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

G: OH, IT WAS FINE, CAUSE YOU KNOW WHEN THE SHOWS AND ~~THO~~
L
THINGS WOULD COME TO TOWN. FAIR COME AND THEY RIDE
AND RODE THE FERRIS WHEEL AND, PICTURE SHOWS.

D: UN HUM.

DENARD & GRAY

G: AND IT ~~WA~~ JUST WAS DIFFERENT. FARISH STREET WAS DIFFERENT. I NOTICED THE PICTURE SHOW ON FARISH STREET THERE. COLORED MAN USE TO BE THERE. REAL BLACK FELLOW! REAL BLACK FELLOW USE TO BE THE MANAGER OF THE PICTURE SHOW.

D: UN HUM. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF IT?

G: IT WAS JUST A PICTURE SHOW, ALL I KNOW.

D: UN HUM. O.K. YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT ~~A~~ HARVEY HORSES?

G: YEA. WE USE TO GO TO THE FAIR.

D: WHAT ARE HARVEY HORSES?

G: HARVEY HORSES ARE SOMETHING THAT GOES AROUND AND THEY GOT HORSES SITTING UPON THERE.

D: OH.

G: AND, YOU GO AROUND. THEY GO UP AND DOWN LIKE THAT.

D: OH, YES MAM, YES MAM. (LAUGHTER)

G: (LAUGHTER) YEA FERRIS WHEEL.

D: UN HUM. HOW MUCH DID IT COST TO RIDE THOSE THINGS?

G: TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

D: TWENTY-FIVE CENTS?

G: AND WE USE TO HARVEY HORSES, HARVEY HORSES.
WE USE TO GO AROUND ON ONE HORSE\$, GO UP AND COME DOWN
JUST LIKE TJ THAT.

~~de~~ DENARD & GRAY

D: UN HUM.

G: AND BOY, WE USE TO RIDE THOSE THINGS!

D: THIS WAS WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL?

G: UN HUM. AND I USE TO ON THE FAIR GROUNDS.
I USE TO STAY ON THAT HILL THERE.

D: ON WHICH HILL?

G: WHERE THE FAIR IS.

D: WHERE THE FAIR IS NOW?

G: UN HUM. AND, UH, I USE TO STAY ON JEFFERSON ST. YOU
KNOW WHERE JEFFERSON ST IS?

D: YES MAM.

G: WELL, THAT'S WHERE.

D: THAT'S WHERE YOU LIVED WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL?

G: UN HUM. I WAS RAISED RIGHT DOWN THERE.

D: UN HUM.

G: SHOW WAS.

D: SO, YOU WERE LIVING RIGHT BY WHERE THE FAIR USE TO
COME IN AT?

G: UN HUM. YEA. I USED TO STAY RIGHT AT THE FAIR GROUND.

D: UN HUM. WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOUR PARENTS DO?

G: WERE A COOK.

D: COOK?

G: YEA, COOK.

DENARD & GRAY

D: YOUR MOTHER? UN HUM. WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

G: MY FATHER, HE WAS... MY FATHER WAS AN ALCOHOLIC. HE DIDN'T DO NOTHING.

D: UN HUM. HOW MANY SISTERS AND BROTHERS DID YOU HAVE?

G: I HAD 3 SISTERS AND 2 BROTHERS.

D: UN HUM.

G: AND THEY'RE ALL DEAD EXCEPT ONE.

D: WERE YOU THE YOUNGEST?

G: UN HUM.

D: WHAT KIND OF GOOD TIMES DID YOU ALL HAVE AT HOME? YOU KNOW, WHAT DID YOU ALL DO AT HOME? WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL.

G: WHAT KINDS OF GOOD TIMES DID WE HAVE?

D: UN HUM. GO BACK AS FAR AS YOU CAN REMEMBER AS A LITTLE GIRL.

G: THE ONLY GOOD TIME WE USE TO HAVE WAS WHEN WE USE TO HAVE BIRTHDAY PARTIES. YOU KNOW, ONE WOULD HAVE...AND UH PEOPLE USE TO TAKE US TO THE PICTURE SHOW.

D: UN HUM.

G: THEY USE TO GATHER US IN A LINE AND CARRY US TO THE
C
PI\$TURE SHOW.

D: UN HUM.

G: AND USE TO HAVE DANCES FOR US. WHEN WE WERE COMING UP, GIRL, WE COULD DANCE.

D: UN HUM.

G: I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT WE COULD.

DENARD & GRAY

D: UN HUM.

G: ~~W~~ AND THEY USE TO HAVE DANCES FOR US.

D: UN HUM.

G: CARRY US TO THE PICTURE SHOW. AND A FAIR USE TO
COME OVER THERE TO THE FAIR GROUND. SEE, I LIVED
BY THE FAIR GROUND. AND, WE USE TO GO THERE AND RIDE
THE HORSES.

D: UN HUM.

G: CHILDREN DON'T HAVE A GOOD TIME LIKE WE HAD. THEY DON'T

D: UN HUM

G: THEY ~~JUST~~ JUST DON'T CAUSE WE REALLY HAD A GOOD TIME WHEN
WE WERE CHILDREN. ALWAYS SOME WHERE TO GO TO.

D: WHAT ABOUT...YOU WERE SAYING PICTURE SHOW. DO YOU
REMEMBER ANY OF THE MOVIES? WHAT WERE ~~TE~~ THE NAMES OF
O
THESE MOVIES?

G: NO. I ~~CAN~~ CAN'T REMEMBER, BUT I REMEMBER THE PICTURE
SHOW USE TO BE RIGHT THERE ON FARLISH STREET.

D: WHERE BOUT?

G: IT LOOK LIKE TO ME IT WAS RIGHT NEAR THE SAME SPOT.

D: WHERE THE ALAMO IS?

G: UN HUM. AND IT USE TO BE A REAL BLACK FELLOW^W USE TO
WORK THERE. THEY CALLED HIM I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THEY CALL HIM, BUT HE WAS COLORED, BUT HE WAS THE MANAGER
THERE.

D: UN HUM.

DENARD & GRAY

G: AND THAT'S WHERE WE USE TO GO RIGHT THERE. AND THERE
USE TO BE A DRUG STORE CALLED REDMAN DRUG STORE.

D: CALLED WHAT?

G: REDMON.

D: REDMON?

G: YEA. USE TO ~~BE~~ BE A DRUGSTORE RIGHT ON THE CORNER.

We ~~was~~ use to go there and drink sodas and everything.

D: Un Huh.

G: Every thing done changed. Yea. Because when I was
growing up...that's kind of far back as far as I'm
concerned. I'm seventy-two years old now.

D: O.k. Do~~y~~ you remember the year that you started
school?

G: No.

D: You don't? What school did you go to?

G: ~~Frank Royal,~~ Smith - Robinson ;
Smith - Robinson ?

D: Frank Royal?

G: Un Huh.

D: What are ~~your~~ your recollection of the good day there
at your school?

G: What did the^y do?

D: Un Huh. What kind of good time did you^h have at the sc^hool?

DENARD & GRAY

G: Well, Played ball.

D: Um Huh.

G: We played ball and just played around there at recess time. Just get out there and have a good time playing.

D: Um huh.

G: We use to have a recess time.

D: Do you remember any of your teachers when you were a little girl?

G: Yea. Miss. Betty. Betty Merena. And Hattie Jones, and Lenny Redi. I can remember.....
That was Dr. Redi's daughter. And, the professor's name was Vincent Lanier.

D: O.K. You went back for ¹ elementary school?

G: Well, No. I went there when I got up in the eighth grade.

D: You went there all the time?

G: All that time.

D: All that time. Through the eighth grade. What about when you were around the eighth grade?
~~What~~ When you were around the eighth grade, what kind of good time did you all have then? What kind of things did you do then?

Denard & Gray

- G: Well, we get out there and played ball. Sometimes girls would have parties at their house. Birthday party some days.
- D: What kind of games did you play at those parties that you all had?
- G: Well, we'd just get out there and played with a big old round ball. Throw it up. And, throw it to different ones. Different one catch it. We just...that's the way we played. And, sometimes we played ball hitting with a bat. I can play ball like a boy. (Laughter)
- D: You played good, huh? (Laughter)
- G: I can play ball just like a boy. I can. My mama, (Laughter) funny to see what she did. One time she bought me a baseball suit. And, I put it on me and played ball because I fal^led down all the time. And she bought me a regular boys baseball suit. I could play ball this day. They never could hardly ~~wh~~ understand me. I loved to ~~pal~~ play ball, when I was a girl. Everybody gone now but me. I stay here by myself. My daughter and my husband died.
- D: Why did you stop school in the eighth grade?
- G: Why did I stop?
- D: Why did you stop when you got to the eighth grade?
- G: You say why did I stop?
- D: Why? Why did you stop?

Denard & Gray

G: Why did I stop?

D: Yes mam!

G: Well, I don't,, My mother died, And, my daddy took me in. He just didn't take no interest in me, His wife, she was an old drunkard, you know.

D: Un huh.

G: And so, that ~~just~~ just made me dropout.

D: Un huh. What did you do then?

G: Nothing but just stayed around home, Cleaned-up, played with the children, (laughter) I didn't, I didn't. There's one thing I'm glad of. I am glad that I did learn how to read and write.

D: Yes mam.

G: Now, that's the good part, I'm glad I learned how to read and write.

D: That's right. O.K. When did you get married?

G: Oh. I think I ~~g~~ married around 1918.

D: What your ~~hy~~ husband was named?

G: Gregory, He's dead,

D: Un huh.

G: There was three of us staying here. Me, my husband and my daughter. They died. Me and Tan^g stay here ~~at~~ now! (Laughter)

D: Ah, Let me see, You got married around 1918, How did you meet your husband?

Denard & Gray

G: We were school-mates, together,

D: He went to Smith Robinson, too,

G: Un huh, He sure did, (Laughter) I knowed his
daddy. We all come up ~~h~~ playing children, together,
when I was a child,

D: What kind of work did your husband do?

G: Well, nothing much! (Laughter)

D: Un huh,

G: My husband was a regular alcoholⁱic. He didn't do
much work. But, when ~~di~~ he did work, he was a
cement finisher,

D: Un huh,

G: So, that's the kind of work he did,

D: What kind of work did you do?

G: I was a maid, Just ~~a~~ regular maid worker, Worked in
white people homes,

D: When ~~did~~^{was} your daughter born?

G: You say, when ~~was~~ she born?

D: Un huh,

G: She was born in 1918,

D: Un huh, O.K. Do you recall anything about, like.....
What church did you'll belong to?

G: Farish Street Baptist,

D: When you were a little girl, too?

Denard & Gray

G: Un huh.

D: I thought lot of , , , , , like you, belonged to Farish Street Baptist.

G: Rey, Tucker is the pastor of Farish St, Baptist church today,

D: Un huh, What kind of good times did you'll have at ~~the~~ church?

G: Well, they'd have suppers on the ground, You know, Black people use to have suppers on the ground, That's the biggest I ever know they to do,

D: Is the church in the same place where it is now?

G: Right there on the corner?

D: Un huh,

G: Right there on that corner, Sho' was! We use to have tables, You know, we use to have suppers and sales, right there on the ground. We use to set tables out there to put the supper. We use to have the best time, That was the time of the church!

D: What kind of activities were you involved in at the church?

G: Well, I wouldn't, Nothing, , , I use to get up there and help them take up a collection, Me and another girl we use to sang at the church sometimes, That's about all, Now my sister was the one that was really active in the church, She could play music, My mother tried to give me music, But, I was so hardheaded, thickheaded I couldn't learn how to play. My sister learned how.

Denard & Gray

G: But me, I just couldn't get my fingers to work like her. (Laughter) Can you play?

D: No mam, (Laughter) Everybody can play in my family but me, too.

G: ~~Sho~~ Sho Nuff?

D: Un huh, What was your maiden name?

G: Before I married?

G: Un huh,

G:

D:

G: Un huh,

D: You were named Betty?

G: Un huh, Betty

D: Have you ever heard anything about Peace/Feast in the Wilderness?

G: Yea, I use to hear something about that,

D: Did you know anything about that P/F in the Wilderness?

G: Naw, I didn't.

D: Do you recall any tent meetings? Or camp meeting?

G: Yea, They use to have tent meetings when I was a little girl.

D: Where about?

G: Down there..... I use to stay down there by the fair grounds.

D: Un hum,

- G: Well, they, you know on a great big lot, a great big empty space down there. They use to put up tents down there and have tent meeting's.
- D: Uh hum. Who would have the tent meetings? Would Black people have the tent meetins? .
- G: Huh?
- D: Were Black people having the tent meetins?
- G: Yea. Uh hum. Yea, they have the meeting, the tent meeting and preaching and preaching.
- D: Uh hum. Okay, down at the fair ground since you lived near the fair ground, didn't they have some kind of race track down there at one time?
- G: Yea, it's still down there.
- D: Uh hum. Do you recall any races?
- G: Yea! I can remember when the fair come in and one colored boy was name Johnny and he was real black and he use to put on his racing they race on horses.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: And I used to go down there on Aunt Kay porch and stand up and see t them racing coming around the track. Woo! they would be running sho as you born.
- D: Uh hum.
- D: Yea, I can remember when they use to have races. They use to race on horses at the fair ground.
- D: Uh hum. Around what ti. . . . was this when you were a little girl?
- G: Yea, I was a little girl then but, I can remember that.
- D: What was Johnny's last name?
- G: Colored boy?
- D: Uh^h hum.

G: I couldn't remember his last name, but he was a real dark fellow. He was a race track runner-rider. And, he ride the horses going fast, you know, w-o-o-o he could ride. It was about six of them. They would come here with the fair.

D: Uh hum.

G: And, I use to ride the hobby horses. But, you know, fairs don't be nothing like they did in them days when I use to come here. This fair don't be nothing!

D: Uh hum.

G: We use to ride the hobby horses, ferris wheel, and the circuses use to come to town. Do even no circuses come here how like they use to.

D: What were some of the names of the circuses that came a long time ago?

G: Ringling Brothers was on of them and (Barnumar and Bailey.)

D: Uh hum.

G: I remember them

D: They came when you were a little girls?

G: Uh hum, them old circuses. They don't come here now.

D: Uh hum.

G: They old.

D: How much did it cost did it cost anything to get in?

G: Yea, you had to pay fifty cents to go in the big show and thirty-five cents to go in the side show.

D: This was when you were a little girl? It cost that much ?

G: Yea, uh hum. I was a girl but, I was - I was ah, of course I ain't very tall now. But, I was a girl, but I never did go in there by myself. It would always be with somebody.

D: Uh hum.

- G: But, I always would go and they had faris wheel. It was nice. The fair don't be nothing like it use to be now.
- D: It was better then?
- G: Since when I was a girl?
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Yea! Sure was they'd have all that over there in the fair grounds they'd have all that get up and they'd have shows all out there and they would come out on the stage and show and then we'd go in and see the rest of the show.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: And, we'd have oh, no, ain't none of that like it use to be. It ain't nothing.
- D: Yes ma'am.
- G: Cause we use to have parades.
- D: The circus people would have parades?
- G: Uh hum, yea. The fair would come in. Oh, it was so pretty over there on the fair grounds. I stayed up there on Jefferson you know where Jefferson Street is?
- D: Yes ma'am.
- G: I stay where the parade was at. Right down on there.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: And I use to be so glad when the fair would come here. Sit out there and watch them playing with the fair and putting it up.
- D: You'd watch them put it up?
- G: I could sit on my porch and look over there
- D: Uh hum.
- G: I like down there. I don't like out here at all when I stay because I had move. I never did like out here.

- D: Why did you move out here?
- G: Well, they tore the houses down. (Loud noise)
- D: Oh yea.
- G: They got filling stations on that street now.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: So, me and my husband and my daughter was staying here. But, see my husband and my daughter died and see I just here by myself
- D: They tore the houses down there so you all moved up here. So, you and your husband and your daughter use to live down too.
- G: Yea, we all use to stay in one of them train built houses.
- D: Train built houses? What's a train built house?
- G: Called train built houses a house with two bedrooms and a kitchen.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: And, two bedrooms and a kitchen.
- D: Why did they call it train built houses.
- G: (Laughther) I don't know but thats' what they called it.
- D: That's what they called it? Would that be something like a shotgun houses.
- G: Yea, It was made something like that.
- D: Uh hum. I see. Okay, was your husband a Mason or anything like that?
- G: Naw.
- D: Did you ever belong to the Eastern Star or anything like that?
- G: Naw
- D: Do you remember the Flood of 1927?
- G: Naw.
- D: You don't remember the Flood. What did you remember about Downtown Jackson when you were small (loud noise)? What was Downtown Jackson like?
- G: It was just I don't see much change is it. It was stores just like

it is now.

D: What about the way it looked?

G: Well, it didn't look like it's looking now. It just a differences. The lights weren't as bright as it was now. And, the stores an on Christmas it was Christmas time was more jollier then it use to be now. Cause on Christmas time they'd have tables all up and down Capital Street.

D: Really!

G: Firecrackers tables selling firecrackers all up and down the street. They had tables on Capital Street and it was just different. Christmas ain't nothing like it was when I was a little girl.

D: What would they have the tables out there for?

G: Have things on it selling them.

D: Selling them.

G: Firecrackers-fircrackers, Roman Candles. You know what Roman Candles is?

D: Yes ma'am.

G: Well, thats what we use to shoot when I was a girl. We use to wind them up that away and hold it that away and shoot way up younder.

D: U^H hum.

G: That's what we use to shot, but I sit the house a fire once. I lit it and I couldn't get out of the door before it went off.

D: Uh hum. You set who your mama's house?

G: Huh?

D: You set your mama's house a fire?

G: Yea, I lit the firecrac. . . . I - I lit the Roman Candle thing in the fire and I could get out doors before it started going off:

D: Uh hum.

G: But, it didn't burn nothing but curtain at that door, but it would have burnt the house up if hadn't been there.

- D: Um um, goodness! Okay, well ah, when you were living down on Jefferson Street did you all have a electricty and
- G: Naw. We burned oil. We burnt Karosen.
- D: When did you all get electricty down there?
- G: Well, I don't know what year it was but I got it before I moved down here.
- D: Oh, that was before you moved down here?
- G: Oh yea.
- D: What about bathrooms inside? Did you have them down there?
- G: Naw. But, I get in the tube today. (Laugther)
- D: So that was
- G: That was down there you had to bath in a bath tube. Not bath tube but a tube what you wash in.
- D: In them number two. Uh hum. So you did have that when you came up here tho didn't you?
- G: What.
- D: The inside bathroom and electricty.
- G: Oh, yea we had an inside bathroom.
- D: About year did you get and inside bath?
- G: What year?
- D: Uh hum.
- G: It was in here when I moved.
- D: Oh, it was in here.
- G: I don't know when they put it in.
- D: How long have you been living here? What year did you move in this house?
- G: I been living here now about five years.
- D: Oh, about five years.
- G: I don't year it come to,,but you can count from there.
- D: Well, you lived down there on Jefferson Street until around 1970.

- G: Yea, I think it was abo t t at when I moved out here.
- D: So you lived down there a long time then.
- G: Yea, all my life. I was raised down t ere, brought up down there.
- D: I see.
- G: I would have been down there now if they hadn't torn the house down.
- D: Do you remember when Hawkins Field was opened?
- G: Naw, I don't remember.
- D: Okay, and you worked as a
- G: Maid.
- D: As maid. Do you remember some of the other women who were ah, maids or that kind of thing? Who lived down in that area?
- G: Yea, lit's see, my dister Fanny and another woman was named Josephine Harris
. . . .
- D: Did most of the women who lived down there work as maids?
- G: Most of them did.
- D: What did some of the other ones do who were not maids?
- G: Well, most all of them was maids what stayed right around in there where I was, maids. They would work for what they call well-to-do people.
- D: Who did you work for?
- G: I worked for the Spangle.
- D: The who?
- G: The Spangle
- D: The Spangle.
- G: Uh hum. David Spangle, 638 North Jefferson.
- D: They lived on Jefferson too.
- G: Uh hum. I worked for them a long time.
- D: Did you have any good times while you worked with them? How was working with them;

- G: Fine! Yea, I really liked them. I'm still in touch with them now.
Every Christmas they send we a box. Sometimes they come to see me. After I left there, after the mother died I went and worked for the Ricks.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: You know Ricks Storage Company?
- D: Uh hum.
- G: I worked for them a good while.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: I think I worked for Mr. Ricks
- D: How was working for Mrs. Ricks?
- S: Mrs. Ricks was a fine woman.
- D: She was?
- G: Yea, sweet as she could be. I really enjoyed working for her. She was just a nice as she could be.
- D: Did you have any good times working over there?
- G: Yea. With Mrs. Ricks?
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Yea, I call it good times cause she was nice and she was a lady she looked for you to do your work (interruption; dog distrubes interviewer). She tell you what to do and she didn't want nobody in he house that would do it. Cause see she didn't stay there and you'd get good information from her what whe want done and any you want to know before she leave just let her know. And (dog interrupts) she stayed away from there. And I had some mighty nice maid jobs. That's the way I made my living, my Social Security and every-thing come right out of working at private homes. But, I worked for nice people.
- D: Well, how much money were you making when you worked at Mrs. Spangles? That was a long, long time ago wasn't it?

- G: Oh my, alot of money. Three dollars a week.
- D: Three dollars a week.
- G: A week.
- D: Hm-m-m. (laugther). How did you feel about that?
- G: In them days, you could get by on it. You sho could.
- D: On three doddars a week.
- G: And, dollar and a half a week rent.
- D: Hum. Dollar and a half a week rent? Who did you rent from.
- G: I cented from Stevenson. This lady up here on Jefferson. I paid three dollars a week, naw dollar and a half. Them the houses there, naw they not sitting there now they done tore 'em down.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: But, you can't get that now.
- D: Rent was a dollar and a half and you made three dollars a week.
- G: Yea. Of course, my husband and daugther was working. But, my lord a mercy, he was working at the funiture store he wasn't making, but fifteen dollars.
- D: Fifteen dollars a week?
- G: But we got along on it. That was mostly what all of them was making.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: We got along on it alright. Thins a like (interruption)
- D: Did you ever okay, about that threee dollars a week, did you ever think you should have made more than that?
- G: Yea, but thats' all they was going to girl you. You wasn't gone get no more that. From three to four dollars a week, now that ones that got four dollars a week was cooking.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: But, see I wasn't cooking. I was cleaning up.

D: Uh hum. I see.

G: Yea, they weren't paying no such a wages as they'er paying people now.

D: How much was electricty bills and stuff like that.

G: Well, I did have no electricty then.

D: Oh yea.

G: I was burning karosen.

D: What kinds of things did you have to buy?

G: What?

D: To live off of three a week.

G: Well, the grocery stores wasn't as high as they are now.

D: Nh hum.

G: I could take three dollars and go to the store and buy enough stuff to do me. We could take about ten dollars and go to the grocery and buy enough groceries and get a whole lot of stuff.

D: Uh hum, yea.

G: But, you can't do it now.

D: Okay, when you started working for the Ricks, what did you call them Richards?

G: Ricks.

D: Ricks.

G: Uh hum.

D: How did they pay.

(Interruption: Dog tries to get out of the house)

G: What now did you say about Mrs. Ricks?

D: How much was she paying? When you worked there?

G: When I first started working for her, she did come up on five dollars.

D: A week.

G: Uh hum. I was cleaning up, but she was doing her own cooking. You know,

I cook too.

D: Uh hum.

G: She could do her own cooking, but I really enjoyed working for her. I had some pretty good jobs.

D: How big was her house.

G: Well, she had a pretty big size house. It wasn't no up stairs.

D: Uh hum.

G: And she kept it nice. It wasn't jard at a;;/ And, al her children grown and married.

D: Uh hum.

G: It wasn't hard. But, do you know get by on that kind of money then. You couldn't do it now. Honey, three dollars and five dollars and ten dollars was as high as it was going and you'd had to be working tell from sun-up till sun-down and like that.

D: Do you remember World War I?

G: Naw.

D: You don't?

G: World

D: World WarI, the First World War.

G: Yea, the first one. I think

D: I happened right before you got married. You got married in 1918.

G: Yea, I kinda remember that.

D: Do you remember how things were here then?

G: Just like it was now.

D: What about the Depression?

G: Oh yea, I remember the Depression. Things go so hard.

D: Were you working then?

- G: Uh hum, yea. Yea, I was working then
- D: Who were you working for then?
- G: Mrs. Ricks.
- D: Mrs. Ricks.
- G: Uh hum. She was a good white woman. They own this Ricks Storage Company down here.
- D: Is she still alive.
- G: Yea, she still alive. I go by there every morning going downtown. You go by Senior Citizens you know about.
- D: Yes ma'am.
- G: Well, I go out there and eat dinner every day.
- D: Uh hum. Well ah lets see, this was in the thirties was you husband working then during the Depression.
- G: Yea, he worked at Regal's Furniture Company.
- D: At what?
- G: Regal's
- D: Regal
- G: You know Regal on Farish Street.
- D: Ureka
- G: Naw, R-E-G-A-L.
- D: Regal, uh hum, he worked at Regal Furniture. That was during the Depression?
- G: Naw, I don't think he was working there no during the Depression.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Naw, I don't think he working at all.
- D: Was your daugther during the Depression?
- G: Yea, my was working for some white people
- D: (Dog barks) What kinds of ah, (dog contimes to bark) and scares inter-

viewer). What kind of good times did you and your daughter and your husband have?

G: Well, we didn't have none with my daughter. The places she went we didn't go. She danced and go to night clubs and things, and we didn't do that. My husband, oh lord, my husband he was a gambler. He'd gamble. I go to Church most of the time. Farish Street. I certainly miss them.

D: Have you ever heard of anything about hamboning?

G: About who?

D: Hamboning.

G: Hamboning?

D: Have you ever heard of that - hamboning?

G: Naw.

D: You haven't?

G: Who is that?

D: Its's a I don't know, it's not anybody, its some kink of music that that people use make by doing it. They call it hamboning. I don't know I can't explain it.

G: Naw, thats' one I ain't never heard tell of.

(Laughther)

G: I done got tickled about that now. Oh, Jesus. How do you do that?

D: I don't know. I can't tell you. Before the dog started barking I was asking you about World War I and the Depression. Okay, do you remember do you remember World War II?

G: Yea, I remember it, but I don't remember nothing about it.

D: Do you remember what you were doing or what was going on in the town and that kind of thing.

G: Naw, I wasn't doing nothing (dog interrupts).

D: You don't remember?

- G: I wasn't doing anything, but just staying home. I wasn't doing anything. I use to take my aunties' husbands' dinner to him down there at Enochs' Factory.
- D: Down at where?
- G: Enochs' Factory.
- D: Where was that?
- G: That's way down South Jackson.
- D: How you spell that - E-n-o-c-h?
- G: Uh hum.
- D: Enochs' Factory
- G: Its' still round there now my auntie huband and I use to take his dinner to him.
- D: Do you remember the soilder coming in here in Jackson?
- G: Yea, I remember when all them soilders was here I sure do.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Yea, this town was full of them wasn't it?
- D: It was?
- G: Yea, sho do. Wonder if any them body is they still
- D: Was he from here in Jackson?
- G: Hnhuh that I had it
in, but I knocked if off there and broke it .
- D: Yes ma'am, unhum. Okay what about the time in 50's. What were you doing in the 50's? What kind were you doing any work or
- G: Oh yea, I think that was when I was working for the Spangles.
- D: un hum.
- G: Yea, I worked for the Spangles and I worked for the Ricks.
- D: Un hum. Okay how you said somebody paid you three dollars a week. Who

paid you three dollars a week?

G: Miss Spangle

D: Miss Spangle?

G: Uh hum right along Jefferson St. She was an old timey white lady.

D: And then Mrs. Ricks paid you about three to five dollars. About five dollars?

G: Naw, Mrs. Ricks paid me fifteen.

D: Fifteen a week?

G: un hum.

D: un hum, when was this?

G: huh?

D: When was this. When was this?

G: Say where was that.

D: About what year was that?

G: Its' been about four years ago since I worked for them.

D: Uh hum.

G: Its been four years.

D: And, she paid you fifteen dollars a week.

G: Yea, she started me off. I was so surprised when she told me that I didn't know what to do.

D: When did you start working for her?

G: Well, I can't recall the year.

D: Uh hum.

G: But, that's the last job I worked on.

D: Uh hum. This was Mrs. Ricks?

G: Uh hum.

D: Uh hum.

- G: After I left Mrs. Ricks, I retired.
- D: You retired. Do you think it was in the fifties when you started working for her, in the 1950's. Was it after the war?
- G: Oh yea.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: I think it was in the fifties.
- D: How much was she paying you when you stopped working for her.
- G: When I stopped?
- D: Uh hum.
- G: She was still paying me fifteen dollars.
- D: Fifteen Dollars.
- G: She never did go no higher.
- D: What did you think about that since the cost of living was going up.
- G: Well, if I had continued to keep on working on, I think she was going give me more.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Cause she mentioned it.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: She was pretty fair. She was a pretty good woman.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: She would have give me more. If she hadn't, I would have left and went somewhere else.
- D: Okay, do remember any of the big bands that use to come to town?
- G: Ah, the big bands.
- D: That use to come to town.
- G: Naw, nothing but ah, there use to be a big band called Use to come to the Opera House on Capital Street. You know where that Opera Hous. . . .

- D: Do you remember the Opera House?
- G: Yea, cause they use to have show. The use to play music out there in front.
We all use to fun up there and listen to the music play.
- D: Uh hum. This was
- G: They play music standing out there in the street.
- D: Where was the Opera House?
- G: It was right there on Captial Street. Do you ever remember where. Herman McGee Drug Store was?
- D: No ma'am.
- G: Well, it ain't far after you get off of State S^Treet. It ain't far.
- D: Okay, this Opera House, it was on Capital Street.
- G: Yea, it was on Capital Street not far from it was a drug store sitting there named Herman McGee.
- D: Uh^h hum.
- G: And, it on coming down S^Tate S^Treet, its right as you turn to your right.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: And, its right along in that first block.
- D: Who would be playing the music?
- G: Well, ah, bands.
- D: Would they be Black bands or white bands?
- G: They 'd be colored bands.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: My uncles used to play music. It would be bands, ~~be~~ big bands.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Great horns and they'd be colored people. Be colored men playing it.
They played music out there in front.
- D: Did Black people go in the Opera House?

- G: Yea. They went in the Opera House?
- D: Did you ever go in there?
- G: No, I never did like the crowd. You know down here under the hill in that fair ground, that building down there where they use to have all the shows, showing the pretty things
- D: Exhibits?
- G: Huh?
- D: Where they have displays and stuff like that?
- G: Yea, that big building as you go down in the fair ground. Well, its there well, one time they had a fair and that building feel in, the building.
- People was down stairs and people was up stairs setting and that building feel in.
- D: Where was that?
- G: I-I don't know what year that was but I can remember when it feel in and it hurt alot of people.
- D: Where you
- G: Naw, I wasn't in there.
- D: Where you a little girl?
- G: I was big enough to understand that.
- D: You weren't a grown woman tho'.
- G: No.
- D: But, you remember that.
- G: It's just like this down here, it had upstairs. Well, that upstairs caved in on the inside. It just caved in on the people. It was awful.
- D: Did many of them get killed?
- G: Naw, but they was toting them out there and carrying them to the hospital. It didn't kill none of them.

D: Were these Black people?

G: Yea.

D: Uh hum.

G: I think Booker T. Washington was speaking down there that Firday.

D: Booker T. Washington! Was speaking down there?

G: Yea! Thats' been a go while ago.

D: You remember Booker T. Washington?

G: I remember him. I don't remember him personal, but I remember his name and I remember things people use to say about him.

D: What kinds of things did people say about him?

G: Well, the would talk about what a fine man he was. He was speaking down there that day.

D: Uh hum.

G: And that upstairs caved in on the down stairs.

D: Uh hum.

G: See, people was upstairs and they was downstairs and that upstairs come down on them.

D: Uh hum.

G: That was awful.

D: UH hum.

G: Woo, they couldn't get them out.

D: Did you ever hear Booker T. Washington speak?

G: Naw, I didn't go. Mama'em wouldn't let me go in that crowd. And friends who went to hear him speak?

G: Well, they all done passed.

D: The all passed? Did your sister or anybody go over or brother?

G: Naw, my sister never did go. Booker T. Washington spoke down there several times.

D: Uh hum.

G: But, I got a glimpse of him once when I was a girl and they was bring him down there.

D: Uh hum.

G: He was a fine looking man.

D: You even heard of W. E.B. Duboise?

G: No.

D: You haven't heard of him?

G: No.

D: Okay, we were talking about that Opera House. Was ever anything like that down on Farish Street?

G: Opera House?

D: Uh hum.

G: Naw.

D: What ever happened to that Opera House?

G: I didn't know there ever was one on Farish.

D: There might not have been, but I was just wondering. I think I had recalled something like that.

G: I don't think it was ever one.

D: Oh, it wasn't?

G: Naw.

D: Okay, what ever happened to that Opera House that was up there on the Corner? You know that was up on Capital Street. You said where the people would play outside?

G: They just made something else out of that.

D: Oh, they did?

G: Yea, the music use to big minstrel shows coming. They'd stand out there on the street and play music.

- D: Uh hum.
- G: They could play music too.
- D: Was anybody Do you remember any of the other bands.
- G: Naw, I don't I just remember that one.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Cause that's the one that come. Those use to be some good minstrel shows use to come here sure as you born.
- D: Really.
- G: Whoo, my lord yea.
- D: Uh hum.
- G: Ain't nothing like that happens now.
- D: Uh hum. Okay, what about black businesses down, I guess, in the Farish Street area? Do you remember a Sims Bakery or H. K. Risher's Bakery? Do remember any of those?
- G: Rishers' Bakery? A colored man bakey?
- D: I guess so, yes ma'am. Risher, I think his name was Risher. Do you remember a Sims Bakery?
- G: Naw.
- D: What about the American Trust and Savings Bank, do you remember that?
- G: Naw, I don't remember that bank.
- D: Uh hum. I think it closed yea, it closed in 1903, I'm sorry. Have you ever heard of L.K. Atwood?
- G: That's a man?
- D: Uh hum. He was a president of the Southern Bank.
- G: Naw.
- D: Uh hum. Okay, do you remember the Crystal Palace? Have you ever heard of the Crystal Palace?

G: Palace?

D: Uh hum. G:

G: Naw, I don't

D: Down on Farish Street.

G: Crystal, naw.

D: You don't?

G: Naw, I don't remember that.

D: What are some of the night clubs that you do remember?

G: Night clubs?

D: Uh hum.

G: Well, I really didn't know about those night clubs and things cause I never have visit them much.

D: Uh hum.

G: But, we use to go to dances at Wash March Hall?

D: Where?

G: Wash March, they called it the Wash March Hall.

D: Wash March Hall, where was that?

G: That was a place up stairs where they had dances.

D: Upstair over what?

G: It wasn't far from that pict it was upstairs over that picture show.

D: Oh, it was up over the picture show.

G: Uh hum.

D: Okay, do you remember Dr. S. D. Redmond?

G: Ywa.

D: You do?

G: Uh hum. Mrs. Redmond use to be my teacher.

D: She did? What are your rememberances about him?

G: Well, I didn't know nothing about him.

D: Uh hum.

G: I didn't know nothing about him at all. He did didn't he?

D: Uh hum.

G: Naw, I didn't know anything about him. I just knowed Doctor Redmond.

D: What about a man named C. C. Sims, he was a contractor?

G: I don't know him.

D: You dont? Yes mama. Okay, down on Farish Street, what did Farish Street use to like? Do you remember any people being out on the street singing or selling things or any of that kind of think down on Farish Street?

G: Naw, I don't remember that. Anybody selling anything on Farish Street. There use to be some people stand on Capital Street and stuff, but they broke them up from it. They stopped them selling up and down Capital Street.

D: When you first get a telephone?

G: I think it's been about six years ago.

D: Uh hum. I see.

G: My daughter had it when I came.

D: Uh hum. What about doctors and that kind of thing when you were a little girl? Do you remember and black doctors?

G: Lets' see, I can't remember none.

D: Did you ever go to any?

G: Let me see. Yea, my use to carry me to the doctor, but I can't call his name.

D: You didn't ever go to doctor Redmond?

G: Naw, I was always a healthy little girl just like I am now. I bet you

I can count the times I've been to the doctor, but, I go when I had an operation.

D: Uh hum.

G: But, I just always be a kind of a healthy person. I never have been sickly

D: Uh hum.

G: And had stay under so doctor. Cause I got one now on account of I got the high blood now you see, when you get older things happen to you.

D: Uh hum.

G: I have high blood now. He fixing with my blood.

D: Do you remember the black nurses? They were public nurses. They use to come around to the different homes and things like that.

G: What would they do?

D: I guess they would check on people. To see if something was wrong with them. I guess when a doctor couldn't be gotten.

G: We don't have nothing like that now.

D: Did you ever have it before?

G: Naw, to come here and see about you, naw.

D: What about midwives and that kind of thing.

G: Yea, I had a midwife when my children were born. I had two children. This girl but she died.

D: Who was the midwife?

G: I can't think of that old womans' name to save my life. Aunt Julia

D: Aunt Julia

G: Thats' you called her!

D: Where did she live?

G: She didn't say far from me. She stayed up in the alley way.

D: Was this off of Jefferson?

G: Uh hum.

D: Uh hum.

G: Yea, she didn't stay very far from me.

D: Do you remember the Sally Harris Clinic? It spened in the forties down here on Pearl Street where St. Marks' Episcopal Church is?

G: Naw, I don't remember that.

D: You don't remember that? Do you remember the Four O'clock Tea Room.

G: Naw, that could have been down there on Farish Street.

D: Uh hum.

G: I just didn't pay any attention to it.

D: Uh hum.

G: See, I never did go to those kinds of things.

D: Okay, what about courtship when you were growing up?

G: I was up in my teens before I let one of the boys come and see.

D: Uh hum.

G: I just alway seemed to be scared of them or something.

D: Uh hum.

G: I know I was in my teens when I started to having company.

D: Uh hum.

G: Sure was.

D: What are your recollections about social traditions like weddings and marriage and that kind of thing, weddings. How were weddings back in the old day?

G: Oh, they were different from they is now. They use to dress different and everything.

D: How would they be dressed?

G: Well, sometimes they'd be dress girls when they be marrying would have on long white dresses and long white veils.

D: Uh hum.

G: Some of them would have bouquets, you know, standing on top of their heads.

D: Uh hum.

G: It would be pretty, but it would just be different than it is now.

D: Uh hum.

G: And they'd have their house decorated on Christmas time and it would be different. Things don't seem like Christmas now like it did when I was a girl.

D: Uh hum.

G: Just different altogether.

D: Why is that?

G: Cause they'd have the house decorated.

D: Uh hum.

G: They'd have Christmas paper I use to have mantel pieces

D: Uh hum.

G: Do you know what a mantel piece is.

D: Yes ma'am.

G: Well, they use to have matel piece use to go up and down it with Christmas paper with Santa Claus on it and put that around the mantel piece and that would make it look pretty.

D: Uh hum.

G: And they would decorate the house different have Christmas trees in the house. Go out in the woods and get your Christmas tree.

D: Uh hum.

G: You know how they'd go out in the woods and bring it back and set it down and decorate it.

D: Uh hum.

D: Uh hum.

G: Aw, it was better times than it is now. People enjoyed it better.

D: What about funerals? How did they conduct funerals back then?

G: Well they preach the funeral at the church and thing like they do now.

D: Uh hum.

G: Carried you, preacher They don't preach funeral now like they use to when I was coming up.

D: Uh hum. How? Why?

G: They just don't have no church funeral like they did now. When I use to be a little girl my mama use to carry me to funerals.

D: Uh hum.

G: And we carry the people out of the undertakers parlor to the home.

D: Uh hum.

G: Took them to the home and we would have a wake that night.

D: Uh hum.

G: See, have a wake that night and that day they would have the funeral at the funeral home.

D: Uh hum.

G: At the home.

D: Uh hum.

G: And then from there they'd carry you on to the funerals.

D: Uh hum. Uh hum. So you remember going to the wakes in the home.

G: Yea.

D: Uh hum

G: I can recall times I went to wakes had the wakes at your home. Sit up all night but, I never sit up all night I go to bed.

D: Yes ma'am. Are you getting tired? You tired?

G: Huh?

D: You getting tried?

G: Naw! Naw, child I sits up till O'clock at night. Sometimes my sisters' boys come up here and sits up with me.

D: Uh hum.

G: What do you reckon is making my hair coming out so? My hair just coming out.

D: I don't know it might be the heat. It might the change in the whether.

G: Uh hum.

D: That's probably it. Cause mine breaks out sometime like that.

G: Really?

D: Uh hum.

G: It comes out like that.

D: When you were a little girl do recall of the relationships between black people and white people?

G: Oh, we got for my part, I'm telling you about me, I use to . . . my mother cook for a white lady two little white girls.

D: Uh hum.

G: And I was just the same as they were.

D: Uh hum.

G: I played with them. Oh well, I played with white children all the time.

D: Uh hum.

G: and all of'em we'd get out there in the front yard and we'd play ball and we'd come down to my house and they call me and say "come on lets play ball."

D: Uh hum.

G: They'd come to my house and I've go to they house.

D: Uh hum.

G: But, white boys were so bad when I was coming up. They were so bad about jumping colored people.

D: Uh hum.

G: And they'd knock your head off too if you didn't get out the way.

D: Uh hum.

G: They'd see you coming they'd start meddling and chucking at you.

D: Uh hum. What did black people do? What did the black children do about that?

G: Well, they just strat chucking back at them.

D: Uh hum.

G: Fighting'em and they'd let 'em alone.

D: Uh hum. Okay, do you recall anything about lynchings in this area?

People being lynched. Black men being lynched or anything like that.

G: Being lynched?

D: Uh hum.

G: Talking people coming at them with ropes and things?

D: Uh hum.

G: No -o -o.

D: Okay, around 1928, two men one was James Martin and Frank West were hung in Bolton, Mississippi for rape. Do you remember anything about that?

G: (Silence)

D: Ma'am.

G: I'm trying to thank now. (Silence) naw.

D: Uh hum. Okay, what did you ah okay, the Jim Crow Era, the water fountains, when the black people had to drink out of one and the white people to drink out of the other. That was in the Jim Crow Era. What were your thoughts about that kind of thing?

G: Well, I tell you I didn't care.

D: Uh hum.

G: Cause I did care. They didn't want to drink vehind me and I didn't want to drink behind them.

D: Uh hum.

G: Like drinking out the same fountain. I don't like them water fountains.

D: Uh hum. I see.

G: Do you?

D: Now.

G: I don't like them. You go there and drink the water and the water dropping down out your mouth and go right back down in whoo, no I don't like 'em.

D: Uh hum.

G: Look how King tore see my chair over there.

D: Uh hum.

G: She just tore the bottom clean out of there. She just tore it up with them sharp toe nails. I got to take her to the doctor next week and get her toe nails trimmed.

D: Uh hum. Okay, I wanted to ask you about this. Do you remember when Emmitt Till go killed?

G: Yea.

D: You remember that? What were your thoughts about that?

G: Oh, I just thought it was awful.

D: Uh hum.

G: What did they even do about that?

D: Nothing.

G: Oh, wasn't that awful the way the killed that child?

D: Okay, when did you first hear about Martin Luther King?

G: About who?

D: Martin Luther King.

G: When did I first hear?

D: Uh hum.

G: Well, I don't know . . . let me see, I can't remember when I first heard tell of him.

D: Well, what did you think about him? What were your thoughts about, Martin Luther King?

G: I didn't think anything was wrong with him. Did you?

D: No, I didn't think

G: What did they do? Where is he at?

D: Oh, he's dead.

G: He died didn't he.

D: He got killed.

G: Yea, I thought they were going to kill him.

D: What about Megar Evers?

G: They killed him too didn't?

D: Yes ma'am.

G: They kill all them men. They gone kill out everytime. They ain't gon' let them do nothing here in Jackson.

D: Well, what you think about that? About them killing those men.

G: I should be killing who?

D: About them killing those men.

G: I just thought it was bad and I thought it was mean.

D: Uh hum.

G: I just did. I just thought it was ridiculous. My husband one night, my husband and my brother-in-law, my brother-in-law hunted all the time.

D: Uh hum.

G: And so one night he was out in the woods hunting. You know he would hunt all night.

D: Uh hum.

G: And he heard some hollering and he says he stopped and he'd go on again, but he kept going in that direction where he hear that hollering. Next thing, he say he come up and some white boys were trying to hang a little colored boy.

D: Really!

G: And they couldn't hold him up high enough for to put the rope around his neck. Them white boys, they were teenagers tho' and so they say they run them away from there and beat 'em and when got the police. And so, the police told that woman, the best thing for her to do is to keep that little boy of hers out the way of them white boys.

D: Um.

G: And she say "well, how am I going to do that?" They say "Well, it's your responsibility. We can't stand out here and watch him." Say "they like to watch for him sometime and catch and carry him on and kill him."

D: Did you know the boy?

G: Yea, Miss Anna Weaks little boy.

D: Anna Weaks.

G: She's in Chicago now. Uh hum.

D: Uhhum.

G: And Fred, Fred he gone too. He grown, he not coming back here.

D: Uh hum. Her name was Anna Weaks.

G: Anna Weaks.

D: Uh hum. Okay, well ah, speaking of the "good old days" again. What did you enjoy most about them? The good days you had at home or at church, at school, or you know when you were socializing or what?

G: Well, the good times when I was young was going to school to church . .

. .

D: Uh hum.

G: Enjoyed ah the little parties and things we'd have.

D: Uh hum.

G: Just going around like in the evening we'd get out and go around to different ones houses and play ring play. Do you remember

D: Play what?

G: Ring play, all of use to catch hold to each others hands and jump around the ring and sing.

D: Oh, I see. What kinds of songs did you sing?

G: Sing about ah, "Greener, Greener Rocket."

D: What?

G: "Greener, Greener Rocket"

D: "Greener, Greener Rocket"?

G: Uh hum. We say "Greener, Greener Rocket' come my children here, dog don't take a seat beside of me." We would sing that going around in a ring holding each others hand.

D: Uh hum.

G: We'd sing that. We catch hands and we'd all just around in a ring and we'd sing that. And then we'd sing "Ring Around the Roses." Somebody would run. We'd all be holding hands. Somebody would run all around us and drop something down and the one that pick it up, you had to pick it up and catch him.

D: Oh yea.

G: Yea, that was fun. We use to have plenty of fun when I was a girl. *we* use to have plenty of fun.

D: Yes ma'am.

G: We never did go around like girls and things do now. Our parents wouldn't let us do that.

D: Yes ma'am.

- D: Okay, you were telling me that you lived in She port for three years.
When did you go to S port?
- G: Huh?
- D: When did you go to S port?
- G: I can't remember the year I went now, but I went there and stayed three years with my husband. Went there and stay with his aunt. His aunt got sick so we went there. We put our stuff in storage and went there and stayed with her until she got better or worst. So, she died and we come on back.
- D: Did you work while you were in S port?
- G: Yea, I worked for a lady named Mrs. Crane. I was getting on away while I was there.
- D: Okay, Mrs. Gray, I certainly do appreciate you giving me your time for this interview.
- G: I enjoyed talking to you.
- D: Okay.
- G: I'll see you again.
- D: alright.

Gray

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