

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

The interview with Mrs. Martin was held on two separate days, June 21, and June 23, 1976 at her home. There were several disturbances on the 21st because her grandchildren were visiting her. Then on June 23rd, when I returned, her husband was home from the hospital and she relaxed to talk with me after she had prepared dinner.

The interview was rich with information on the way Blacks lived in the early days in Jackson, particularly from the 1920's on. The area where she lived was not well developed when she moved there around 1928 when she and her husband were married. He told me that he bought the lot and house with small kitchen for \$900.00.

The "Good Old Days" for her consisted of when she went to church, and played games with her father. In general, she gave me the impression that she enjoyed life. She did not complain about anything except the modern day children. Her visitors had her a bit up-set on the 23rd because they didn't help keep things clean.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mrs. Beatrice Martin of 1323 Cox Street was born in Rankin County, on May 1, 1904. She came to Jackson when she was two years old. She was a member of a family of eleven children. Her mother took in washing and they had a garden as well as did some share farming. Both she and her husband have lived in Jackson all their lives. She is a member of the St. James Baptist Church and enjoys going to the Senior Citizen Feeding Site.

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 used for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publication, or for other related purposes.

I, Mrs. Beatrice Martin 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 known, recognized, or contemplated, to Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

Mrs. Beatrice Martin
Interviewee (Signature)

6-23-76
Date

AH: Today is June 21, and I'm in the home of Mrs. Beatrice Martin.

EM: Um, hum.

AH: 1375 Cox Street. Now is that right you were born in Rankin County?

EM: Um, hum.

AH: May 1. 1904.

EM: Thats right.

AH: And you have eleven children, all living?

EM: No, ah, two have ceased.

AH: Um, hum. So you have nine living now.

EM: Ten.

AH: Ten who are living now?

EM: Ten living now, six boys and four girls.

AH: Um, hum.

EM:

AH: So they all live around here?

EM: Well, I have ah, four boys here and I have three children; one in
ah, Memphis and I have a girl in Evansville, Indiana.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And have a boy in Washington, D.C. and I have a girl in Washington,
D.C. and I have another girl, another boy in Washington, D. C.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And all of them

And I have a girl who live here too, a girl who live here.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And ah, she has seven children.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And she live about three streets over.

AH: Um, hum. I understand you use to take in washing along time ago
for a living.

EM: Oh, yes.

AH: Um, hum. How did that work? Did they bring it to your house

EM: We would have to tote 'em - go get 'em and go to white people houses
and get 'em and tote 'em on our heads and on our backs.

catch a sheet. They were in a
sheet and you put them on our shoulders and carry 'em and bring
them home.

AH: Were you living in this house then?

BM: No mam. My home was over on Jones Street.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Where I was reared from two years old - on up until I got twenty.
I reckon, I was about

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I reckon, I was right around twenty-three or twenty four
quite that old. I was in/^{close}to the
neighborhood of that going to school.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And went to school, I went to Jim Hill School. The first school
I entered in . . . Jim Hill School.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And my first teacher I went to, her name was Mrs. ah, . . . Lee.
I forget the first part of her name, but the last part was Lee.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I entered in Jim Hill School and they weren't through with
Jim Hill School. They didn't have the fron steps, they were
working on the first steps hadn't completed it.
And we had to go round on the side between the fence and ah,
the school to go in the school.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I entered in school in . . . in those days now, they have ah,
. . . wee-primers, but we were in the primers.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: So, I entered in the primers in her room and went out of her room
and passed on to the second grade.

AH: How far did you go in school?

BM: Far as the eight.

AH: Eight grade you did? Um, hum. Did Jim Hill go any farther
than that then?

BM: It went further than sixty.

AH: Sixth grade? Well, where did you finish school? Where did you
get your other three years from?

BM: Went on to Lanier High School, out on Street.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum. Ah, how did you use to have a "good time" then?
When you were in school in those days?

BM: We'd walk to school.

AH: Um, ha.

BM: Walked from where I lived clean to ah, Lanier High School.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Lot of us girls - no boys. It was all girls.

AH: In your family?

BM: Naw, well, not my family but my brother and my self, went to ah,
Jim Hill. I went to Lanier.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: At that time, because all of my sisters when they got large enough big enough they married and that left my mother had eight children two ceased and six was living. They died and left six

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And that was two boys, and four girls.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Living at that time.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: She died soon. She married the second day of January in '40. When she died it was the 27 of November (Loud truck passing through) Her oldest sisters were living. She was the mother of fourteen children.

AH: Your mother?

BM: My sister was the mother of fourteen.

AH: Oh, I see. Oh, I see. Um, ha. Um, ha.

BM: Then she left her, she left we was Hooker's at that time. My name was Beatrice Hooker.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: At that time.

AH: Now, I would like for you to tell me how did you have a good time then?

BM: Well the "good times" was going to . . . it wasn't , you know, no recreation at that time. The only good times were going to Church . . . Sunday School and the B. T. U. Thats all we ever went to; we didn't go to no, . . . didn't have, well . . . they had parties, but now and then. And then, when you did go, your mama went along with you.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Going to the . . . It wasn't no parties like now these days.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: It was just a party we would sit (Laugh) around the fireplaces and we'd roast peanuts and we would play Old Grey Horse with our peanuts.

AH: How would you do that? Play Old Grey Horse? (Laugh) How would that work?

BM: Well, now my daddy would give us a whole lot of peanuts in our hands.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Alright. The way we would do it - we would put them in our hands, we'd put two in our hands . . . "The Old Grey Horse how many miles." Then somebody say one, . . .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we opened our hands it'd be two.

AH: Um, hum.

- BM: Then they'd play ^{The} Old Grey Horse and say stuff like that and that's the way we would play the old horse.
- AH: So the person that would have two would have to ride two miles?
- BM: That's the way it was
- AH: Ha?
- BM: I'd ride it, they said how many miles - two. And then, if it be more than two or twelve, five or six or something like that.
- AH: They'd have to pay.
- BM: Well, you had to give your peanuts up.
- AH: Oh, you;d give your peanuts up?
- BM: Give the peanuts up, if you now, you said well, six you'd have to give them that many more to make that six. If somebody owed you two or three you'd have to give up. Who ever catch you you'd give that person three or four peanuts. If they said, four you'd have to make it four **for** your peanuts.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: And around and around and they played that.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: And parched. Don't have it now. They have it but, it don't. . . they don't like it was in those days - popcorn.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: Had that good popcorn. You know, when you pop the popcorn and then we would roast the potatoes and have peanuts and eat sugar cane. Oh, we did that. That was all the "good times" it was then in those days.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we'd go out in the woods and we'd climb trees and we would
musterdimes and ah, grapes-wild grapes
climb the trees and on the trees could be hanging
down. Good-fashioned, we'd get on those . . . catch those limbs
and would swang on those.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Branches, you see.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Then they had swings - put it up in the tree and knot a rope.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we would swing and two of us called it, we said we'd booth
the jack. Two be in the swing and one be . . . well, wouldn't
be pushing to me, well, like this one standing up in between
your legs, enough you know, enough space.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You would have your feet out while and that one would stand there
and we'd swing backward and forward up that way.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: After we'd go out in the woods and we'd find hickeynuts . . .
hickeynuts,

AH: Now whats a

BM: It was just something like a hickeynut but, that
goodie inside of that you almost could crack
those kinds with your teeth.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And the had a bigger goodie than the hickeynut.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: So we would have those kinds and it wasn't. . . didn't have
no trees much like it did coming up now in these
days. Pecans.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Now, you didn't see none . and hickeynuts, and
black walnuts those were they were all
practically the goodies that we would have to eat.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Potatoes, peanuts.

AH: Um, hum. But you would just enjoy going out in the woods . . .

EM: Going out there and . . .

AH: Looking for these things.

EM: Ooh, and going. . . we had cows.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: We would carry the cows to the pastures and had to go to the
pasture and get the cows and drive them back up to the house.
Milking the cows; milk the cow and come in and strangle up
the milk. We had a strangler and we put (loud truck passing
by) a flour sack inside our . . .

AH: Now, what was that you ^{you} say/put . . . you said you had a
strangler and you'd do what?

BM: Stranler. And that strangler would fit. . . we had a milk bucket and that strangler would fit that bucket and you'd take a strangler and put you a flour sack inside that strangler because sometimes dirt wouldgo through that straner or some type of . . . so you put a sack down into the stranger.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And up the milk. And after the milk, we'd put it in my mother's , she's weak now. Now, she milked the cow once a day . You'd milk the cow.

AH: That was around here in Jackson?

BM: Over there where I'm living there now - where I was living when I was child.

AH: Um,ha. Now, what was that community called?

BM: It's right over there in

AH: um,ha. You'll had cows over there.

BM: Yea, cows, horses, chickens everything.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum.

BM: Pigs, hogs.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Yes'm we reared them over there. Yes, we had plenty hogs we'd kill. We had horse and buggy, wagon, horse would the mule, pull the wagon.

AH: Um, hum

BM: So we'd go to the field in the wagon and had a crop we farmed.
my sister and my mother and father we farmed way out across the
river - out there in ah,

AH: Rankin County?

BM: Thats right.

AH: Um, ha.

BM: We'd go out there - ooh, and make plenty of potatoes and we'd have
our smallest thats the little small potato.
for a seed for the next of the next year.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You buried those things and you'd
And my father had a small and a medium size he had a
great big of was made out of . . .
naw, he would dig a round circle and he would take that; as he take
that dig making that circle round there and throw/up on top of
that place, you see.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Building it in, filling it up. And after, he do that; the reason
he do that to keep the water from ah, getting the potatoes wet.
He'd build them up on a high.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: On a high thing. (Door skrieking) There come my grandchildren now.
(Silence)

BM: If it would get water in it that would n't hurt, you see.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But, he filled that up and he put . . . we'd go out in the woods, one of the woods overthere where the Battlefield Park is now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: It was a lot of pine trees. We go and get that pine after it get dry bring it in a sack and after we bring it in a sack with it; he would put that pine stuff all up on top of that what he done built it up.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And after he build it up; like he wanted to go out in the . . . where he farmed and get some cornstalks and take those corn stalks and build something like a wigworm/^{up}and put them all in . . . **all the stalk**; he put all around. He'd fix it. . . set them cornstalks all up; then after he set them up all away round; he'd fix them in a way where they all come together some thing like this (Demonstrating)

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And that potato . . . he put the potatoes on there to make that stay up there.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: After he done sorted **the** potatoes out. Now, he's fixing the large potatoes well, to eat. And, after he put them potatoes up there and they dry but, when they gather them they don't put them in a right then. They lay them out and let them stay out

CONT.,

for three or four days or more till they dry out; after they dry out, you see, some of them have dirt on them and by you transferring them and turning them over, that gets that dirt off 'em.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And after, they get the dirt off/^{of}them, he'd go and he'd work. My daddy worked everyday.

AH: Where did he work?

BM: He worked then way back in them days; he worked at the white people houses.

AH: Um, hum. Do you know anybody he worked for?

BM: He worked for Mr. Hogan, and he worked for

AH: You know his first name?

BM: J. C. Hogan.

AH: J. C. Hogan.

BM: Yes, thats a white

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He worked for years with him .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And he worked and he cleaned up. They had / ^{some} lot of ah, land, they wanted cleaned up. They wanted a lot of trees small and they all them moved and my daddy would carry a cross-wood cut saw in them days. He'd catch over there had a handle on this saw.

AH: Um, hum.

CONT.,

my sister would be on that end of the saw, and he would just saw, saw, saw, and saw all of them,

AH: You sister would go help him?

BM: And I did too.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I did too. Thats the reason, I'm talking.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum.

BM: My mother was at home. She did a lot of washing and ironing and I cooked. I didn't go to school, but three days in a week.

AH: Ah, why? Cause you had to work the other days?

BM: Had to work.

AH: Um, ha.

BM: Had to work.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Wash and iron Monday was day to stay at home to help wash and iron. We were washing and jump to that subject to his one now, I'll go to that.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We was washing for the Blind Institute. And, this institute man would bring those clothes to us.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: In a wagon, great big old baskets - baskets would be like this the bed of the . . .

AH: Um, hum.

EM: wagon up there that high full of clothes.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: They had boys shirts, girl's dresses, girl's panties. They were blind; some could see and some couldn't see.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Some had eyes where ... places where the eyes be, but it was an institute.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: At that time.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: So, we washed for them. And, in that hot washing sometimes it would be eighty and seventy-five , eighty, sometimes ninety dresses for different sizes of

AH: Um, hum.

EM: So many shirts. And, they boys ah, ah, the boys had shirts, and they had they had overall pants, they've become pants.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: In therewith the wash. The washing . . . well, they paid us at that time Then she would around for the man to bring it to us; and she didn't have nothing to do but wash 'em.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Now, she would wash¹. They would give her/^{to get}them clothes Monday morning.

(Company Interruption)

AH: You mother was getting paid for this wash.

BM: Yes, I, I, I, know it; I hadn't forgot it.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Sometimes they would pay her twenty-four sometime twenty-five dollars sometimes according what do they have. See, they had to make a list of everything they had. And sometime she would make thirty-six dollar. Well, she would wash, let me see, would she wash every week? Yes, she would wash every week cause, they'd pick up them clothes on Friday.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: They'd give her to Friday, you know, they must add a week to give her and I had to stay home Monday and Friday was my day to stay.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And ah, I went to school Mondays and Thursdays was my day, because Friday I'd go to school: I'd go to school Tuesday and Wednesday and Friday, and thats the way it was.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I had to iron seventy-five or eighty-five dresses before I could go to school. I would get up in the morning and do my work; milk the cows, put the cow out; and ah, come in and wash the breakfast dishes

CONT.,

and sweep and scrub, you wouldn't half clean up
Everytime I sweep; it was so clean you/^{just}could lay
down on that floor; you wouldn't get dirty.

AH: Um.

BM: Scub them floors, cook.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I was cooking when I was small. And, you see, these can biscuits?

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I can roll my dough; but I don't put my hand in that dough until
I started working in it and I put my milk and my lard right in the
middle. I open my flour and put my lard in there. I start it off
with milk, and I can practically make it all up with milk because
we had cows.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And/^{just}take me a spoon and continue to work until that . . .just continue
to work that way; the more you work, the more you're working
your flour into your dough. And rake it all up; and get it all
round

and work it up and when I work it all up and I get it all up; and
round my pan, don't look like I had ever had any flour in my pan.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I'd get that dough just where it is and then after I get it; I roll
roll, break a piece af dough off; roll it in my hand and take our

CONT.,

hand and kinda pat it down a little bit, but the print of it won't never be on the dough when it gets done.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And put it in the skillet. And, I had to put it in the pan. I had a good size pan. I got my pan now, what I had when it was thirteen of us in the family.

AH: Ugh.

EM: The pan was big enough to make four rolls of biscuits. Alright, make them biscuits
They weren't making no self-rising flour and no self-rising meal.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: You had to put your stuff in your meal yourself.

AH: You was just cooking for the family, or did you'all cook for somebody else?

EM: I was cooking for my family.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Then I cooked at home, that's the reason I know how to cook so many things; I don't have to have no recipe to make nothing.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I got it in my head. I just can, you say, well, I'm making mine by the recipe.

AH: (laughing)

BM: I'm making minel by my head.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And mine would come out better than yours.

AH: Umm, hum.

BM: So I roll them biscuits and put them in; and when they get
they're the softest little thing
We had a stove. We didn't have gas. We didn't have gas in those
days.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Had fireplaces and burning wood.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And stone holes. We had a great . . . I've been here . . . now,
we had a fireplace here since I've been here.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Now, this house wasn't but two rooms and kitchen on that side.
It was my two rooms and my kitchen was on the 1 room back
there.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And that was the back room right there and this is the front room
Now all of this here, addition,
my husband added this to it all around. I got a big old house.

AH: Ugh.

BM: With thirteen rooms. Way on the rear end, back over there, I got
a room. I got a kitchen, gas already on there. My son stays round
there. My other son stayed. Give them all a start, you know,

CONT.,

to when they got out .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Let stay here and they were working.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: They would help pay the water bill, light bill, and gas bill, and so when they thought they were ready to get out, you see, they just got out on their own, and didn't have, you know, to, you know, go and rent. Rent wasn't nothing like it is now. No indeed.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: No, indeed.

AH: Do you know approximately when you moved to this house?

BM: Yes, m'am.

AH: When was that?

BM: I married in 1926.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Twenty-eight and ah,

All of this house been built since I moved in my house. When I come down in here, they just drugged that street there, where the street was going to be. Now, our street was gravel. Just put down dome gravel on it. And, when it needed fixing they put gravel on it.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Way on later . . . now, my husband he was in the army. He was here when they blacktopped these streets.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I've been down here every since '28.

AH: Ugh.

BM: I married in '26. I stayed with my mother until nearly about the latter part of '27. Then I moved with his people from my mother's into his peoples from Pascagoula. And, I stayed up there and he said, 'Now, we ain't going to move nane nother time. Say, 'When I move, I'm gonna to move in something that I will try to buy of our own'. So when we moved here . . . I moved alright, but when I moved I didn't come to this place right then. I come up on Jones and then the other

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We rented a little ole house up there. It was a room and a kitchen. And, when we moved from there, till they got this house, we had put in for this house and we had to stay there until they got this house completed.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I come on down there and then this house was built

Well, we won't buy us a big home. We gonna start at the little end, because it's so many of us.

CONT.,

Then my job, and don't get that much money. We gonna start at the little end

AH: What was he doing then?

EM: He was hauling stone poles for Mr. George Brown.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And ah, he could get all of his coal . . . I had a great room; fireplace overthere with one chimney, but it was made into two parts.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: The was on this side and the

AH: Is that where you cooked?

EM: No, no. I'll tell you that.

AH: Go ahead, I'm sorry.

EM: The was on this side and the fireplace on that side.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I kept this fron room clean all the time because it wasn't nobody but myself and my first baby. So, we stayed in the back room. I reared all my children in the back. Now, right there. Now that place cut out my husband cut that out and made a but all of that was closed in and my door was right opposite that last curtain . . . had a door there.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: The I'd go in that side. Keep that front door locked.
And, I didn't have no door here, wasn't no door here, and wasn't
no door there. (Demonstrating) All of that
had a lot of children.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I reared all of my children in there because the fireplace
was in there. Just like you see me sewing here . . .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I'd be cooking back in the kitchen. Naw, I had a wood stove. An
iron wood stove that burned wood.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I had four eyelets on there. I had everyone of the eyelets
burning. I got peas on one eyelet, and I cooked two vegetables
and I have greens on this side (Demonstrating) then, I maybe
cooking something in the skillet on that side, maybe making something
on this side. But, I put my bread inside the stove and that
way it would get done in the stove.
And back in them days, we didn't have no refrigerator like we've
got now. We had ice boxes.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: When we had the ice boxes we could put that ice box up top between
twenty-five pounds of ice.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You wrap it up in paper . . . newspaper.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You want to keep it, wrap it up in newspaper, real tight and a
grass sack. We called them Put it in a
grass sack.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And stand over up in there and put it in top
of the ah, the ah . . .

AH: Your ice box?

BM: Ice box.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: In that ice box, you put it on down in there, just like this here
and that You put that
pipe down in there, and put a top on it. And that ice will
stay there. You wouldn't have to buy ice everyday. When you
can take the ice, you can chip off you a little bitta piece
(Door slams).

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Make your ice water and wrap it back up and save.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Cause it wasn't that high, but yet you wouldn't get it everyday.

AH: Um, hum. Now, would you call these days that you've been
describing to me . . .

BM: Um, hum.

AH: Would you call that the "Good Ole Days"?

BM: Thats right.

AH: Um, hum. How would you summarize the "Good Ole Days"?

BH: The "Good Ole Days" them all the days was to be. It wasn't no other days. No other days. And, it wasn't (Phone rings) many children at that time.

(These children are worring me

AH: Um, ha.

BM: Now, the size of girl, my size (Come see the telephone, baby.)

The girl my size were smaller something like this child.

(You can go one to bed. You all away round.)

(Silence)

BM: So when you did go out and your mother feel like going, she said go over to Mrs. so-and-so and see is she going out tonight and if she's going you can go with her. Come back, say "Mrs. so-and-so say, she ain't going; not tonight." **Well, you go in there and pull your clothes off and get in the bed. You go get in the bed!** You ain't gonna put, and you ain't gonna do nothing,

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Cause my mother did the whipping.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Oh, you . . .

AH: Your father never did do any whipping?

BM: No m'am, not daddy. Daddy would just like
he was talking to us children.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He played with us. That's the reason, we learned how to play
"Old Grey Horse" from him.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we'd sit down and he'd play us and he would tell us how he
traveled. He just remembered the Civil War.

AH: Ugh.

BM: And he could sit down and tell us, so many different things that
he He didn't do nothing but travel
before he married my mother.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He married my mother in 1900. And ah, in 1902, my oldest sister
died.

Now, I tell you one thing I could kinda remember: When the
Liberty Bell rung. I think they had pledged war cause that's the
first World War. The bell rung.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And when it rung it ranged that long. The bell . . . I see they
got^a/picture of that bell ringing so, it cracked.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I kinda remember somethings like that back now. I nursed my baby brother and I nursed my baby sister.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Cause I was a lazy child and I would be glad to sit down to keep from working at the house.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Sit down and nurse the baby
work
Ooh, how you'd
Like school is over now?

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We wouldn't do nothing but work.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We'd work and clean up. Clean up the house when I'm gone
My . . . you . . . it's gonna be clean.

AH: Um.

BM: Um, ugh. Like these children half naked here now. . .

SIDE 2 OF TAPE 2

BM: When my mother was sick. . . .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And back in them days . . . they wore, she called them (Laugh). We called them undershirts, but they called them

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And they didn't have but a little thing upon our arm now, that little bitta thing. You'd sit down and it would break. That thing would be on the strap of your slip and would be that wide.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And, It would sometime. . . my mother would get some bleach, that made it real white, and she would make us undershirts. she cut it, it didn't have nothing like this (Demonstrating). Then, she'd cut it right in here.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: She cut it out and hse'd cut it in here.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And after she cut it in here, she would gather this up, and make it a gathered underskirt. It was gathered, you know, here on this side.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And sew it back into that place, where she cut it from. And thats the way we wore a slip.

Sometimes we would get some nice trimmings, She would cut that yoke kinda round and she would put some trimming on that one, and trimming at the bottom.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Deep trimming just about that high. (Demonstrating)

AH: Um, hum.

BM: She would shine it nice and

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Then was them white ones that you wore with your Sunday slippers.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And she would buy her material by the boat. She would
of yellow , a boat . . . and she had a stove
she traded in. A boat in a white material and she would buy. It
was Say, don't say have that now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: It was some sort of stuff (Door Slams) you call . . .

AH: or something.

BM: They had . I wore slippers going to school
till we got

AH: Um, hum.

BM: She'd make those slippers the same way. We'd wear them to school.
We'd wear our dresses, and some material they call the
material and material.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: That was some good stuff. Mama made my daddy's shirts. (Door slams)
just like bought out of the store.

AH: Um, hum. She was a seamstress, ha?

BM: And she just learned herself!

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And she made my daddy's draws.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Now the men wearing jockey shorts and wearing shorts. Some of them shorts sometimes to wear. My son used to like to wear them jockey things. He says them things are ugly; too tight in the seat. He stop wearing those jockey things.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But my mother made my daddy's shorts. She made his draws. She made his draws long, and she would open them on the side.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And on the side she would put a band on the bottom of that. And, on that band, she'd have . . . she'd let it come with a string to it.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: The way she do it, my daddy put on them call 'em at that time.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And he put on his socks and he put on his draws and he would tie those strings around that sock.

AH: Ugh.

BM: Keep that sock from coming down and also for if he walked you see, they'd slid up and you'd tie them with a string to keep them down on his leg. And when he pulled them down, and he get them way down,

CONT.,

he would get them down the leg, way down like this, (Demonstrating) and he fix them after the mama had made them. And, they take that string and he would bring it back and bring it again on there, you know, put it on there twice and tie it and it would stay right where ever he put it.

AH: Hum.

BM: And

AH: Um, hum.

BM:

When I was going to school, I wore ah, rib stockings. They were brown rib stockings.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And ah, my shoes were ah, ah, well, what kind of shoes were that? We didn't wear shoes, didn't have shoes made like we wear oxford shoes.

(Interruption of children)

AH: When you were a small child, you told me about an elementary school and some of the things you did.

BM: Um, hum.

AH: And then as you grew up.

BM: As I grew on up, it was just about the same.

AH: About the samething?

BM: About the samething.

AH: Um, ha.

- BM: It was all the "Good Times" was. My daddy, we had a horse and a buggy.
- AH: Oh.
- BM: And ah,
- AH: How many other people in the community had a horse and a buggy?
- BM: Well, it was quite a few. It was cars, bud we begin to get cars.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: But we rode ten and eleven miles out in the country - out there to Brandon - on the other side of Brandon. My daddy belonged to church
- AH: What was the name of that Church?
- BM: Pleasant Grove.
- AH: Oh, um, ha.
- BM: We rode back to Church. I've had ah, the Church you know, when they were, I reckon you heard about when they were going around and setting all of these Churches to fire .
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: They set that Church to fire.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: They gave them another Church.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: And it is a beautiful Church!
- AH: Um, hum.

EM: Now.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Alright, then my mother is buried right out back behind my grandmother my daddy's mother and his sister, and ah, my mother, father, my mother's mother, and my father's brother.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: His son, and they had another son. All of them right down the hill behind Pleasant Grove.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Now, it didn't go Father's Day and I didn't go Mother's Day.

It had rained all that week just about (Loud Bang).
See, down in the low land it had been so muddy you couldn't have done anything to it.

AH: Am, hum.

EM: And they usually begin to keep the grass or the weeds out but the leaves on the trees fall out, we'd go there and rake them leaves in a pile and we'd rake them on down and make good fertilizer and little that would help fill that/branch in.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: So thats the way we did/our cleaning. We cleans up about nine graves when we go out for Mother's Day. We clean up all the graves, cause we wouldn't go but, once a year.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I haven't been, because my sister-in-law was going to take me. She and I we'd go. My baby brother went. The other year, my baby brother dropped dead in my own house.

AH: Huh.

BM: And ah, he didn't get chance to go; he was gone last year.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Now, he's been dead two years.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Soon will be, this coming July - it will be three years, I believe it will.

AH: Um.

BM: Is when he fell dead. My sister

AH: Now oh, go ahead.

BM: My sister, she died in February/^{of}last year.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: She's been dead a year, this February.

AH: Um, hum. Were you ever a member of any of the Secret Orders, or . . .

BM: No,

AH: Societies or

BM: No, no kind of society.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We did have a society called the Three Eagle Society.

AH: Um, hum. What was that like?

BM: It was just a lot of people belonged to it. And, we'd have our meeting and then it combined with the ah, your Bell Association.

AH: Um, hum. Oh, I see.

BM: The Three Eagle Bell Association thats way it runned.

AH: Is this still in existence now?

BM: Nom, the president of it has been dead and kept on to the leaders and the other presidents and all of them done died out.

AH: Huh.

BM: And I think they put it in the hands of another lady.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I think she bought, she got this land up there on Moorehouse right there at ah, Third Temple, that Church upon Moorehouse.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum.

BM: Thats where it was in that vacant lot. That was the Three Eagle Society thats what we belonged to.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But, it went down.

AH: Um, hum. So, it was just burial and what else?

BM: It was just Eagle Society. It was a burial policy, you see. Pay your burial fee at the society, you see, and the Society would take it to the big place.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Down to Grave and Collins or whatever and the secretary would pay, you know, pay up.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You'd pay at the Three Eagles and they'd go and pay the things up and bring everybody their policy.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And after we'd do that, we'd have programs and different things at that place.

AH: Um.

EM: Meet every Wednesday night, I think it would be Wednesday night.
you

AH: Um, hum. Now, I want/to tell me about music? Maybe, I might have to come back look like you're going to have to answer the phone again. (Phone ringing)

EM: Well, what kind of music?

AH: Well, what kind of music do you like best?

EM: Well, singing. My boy was in a recital yesterday.

AH: Oh, really?

EM: At St. James. He wrote these songs, six songs (Grandma). Hah, (Somebody on the Telephone) Then it went in a mission, what it is direct him up taking up collection.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And after he taken up colletion, the musician he had;she didn't never get up all his little He never did get/^{up}off the little stool.

AH: Um, hum.

AM: And when he returned back, he song the other six songs.

AH: Huh.

EM: HIs voice never did get weak or anything. He just song them songs.

CONT.,

And he song one I do love to hear him sing.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: About, "He Touched Me."

AH: Huh.

EM: That child song those songs I'm telling you.

(INTERVIEW WITH MRS. BEATRICE MARTIN WAS RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23, 1976,
DUE TO SEVERAL DISTURBANCES ON THE 21st BY HER VISITING
GRANDCHILDREN IN HER HOME.)

AH: Today is ah, June 23, and I'm back at Mrs. Martin home to complete the recording about the Senior Citizens Recollections of the "Good Ole Days."

When we finished the last time you were telling me that your son singing in the Church and how you enjoyed it and all. Now, I want you to go back just a little bit today, and see if you can remember attending any camp meetings, or tent meetings when they had Church here in Jackson earlier.

EM: In the earlier days?

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Well, I didn't go to no Church

AH: In Church houses.

EM: In Church, yes m'am.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum.

BM: But back in those days I went
But we loved to go to the tent. (Transportation noises)
the saintified people.

AH: You were saintified?

BM: No I carried my children up there everynight.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we'd go up there to ah, Rev. Chambers had camp meetings on
Lynch Street on the grounds.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And people, people, people, people would be there. And, I'd go
early in order where I could get me a good place for me and my
children to see.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I carried them nearly about every night it was.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And carried them to camping grounds, then we used to have a camping
ah, Back in those days when I was carrying my
children to . . . they had

AH: Brush

BM:

AH: What's that now?

BM: That's at the church. It was made in the form . . . like this is the room
this is the

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And fix it and we had wire running across wire so they could stay up there. And they laid 'em up them and outdoors and indoors. And ah, . . .

AH: So the was just to keep the sunlight from coming in.

BM: Thats right. Keep the sunlight off the children.

AH: UM, hum.

BM: Because the little bitta children were out and had their meeting out under there, like, they'd have revival you know, it get too hot in the church.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And they would go out in the air.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I was in the when we'd go out and have prayer service and the preacher would preach. It was a lady preacher then.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: This lady pastored twenty-seven years. Her name was M. D. Crawford.

AH: Um, hum.'

BM: She was from Shaw, Mississippi. She was our pastor to one church at that time.

AH: Um, hum. Now what church was this?

- BM: St. James, thats when it was named.
- AH: A Methodist?
- BM: No m'am, Baptist.
- AH: Baptist. St. James Baptist Church. Um, ha.
- BM: Um, hum.
- AH: Well, where is that church located?
- BM: Over there on the corner of Jones and McKinnley.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: Over on that side.
- AH: Um, hum. Um, hum. So that church has been over there every since you've been in this area, 1904.
- BM: Every since I was a child. We helped my sister and I we helped laid the foundation of the . . . We went out in old fields. All through this place wasn't nothing. This was a place where they had cows, nothing but cows. A man had a diary.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: And he didn't have nothing but cows. The in this part and all the way down to the creek, I say creek.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: Cause I was baptised in a creek back down that way.
- AH: What creek is that?
- BM: Back down that way . . .
- AH: Um, hum.

- BM: Is a big creek. That came in where the Coke-Cola Plant is today.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: It was ah, a big old . . . It was a big building. White and colored would be at that baptising.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: Baptised forty-five at once, this lady would cause she was a preacher.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: She didn't baptise them but she had you know, then . . .
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: But she called them and I was baptised right down cross over there. I was baptised in 1920.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: Under the leader of Rev. Crawford. And the lady died not too long ago, I believe it was over on Sidway, to New Strangers Home. Edith Davis . . .
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: She died. She was baptised. We both got baptised together.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: It were eight of us. And we were baptised in the creek.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: In the water, you see. They got now in churches, they got a pool in the church.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: Cause my husband baptised in the creek.
- AH: Um, hum.

BM: So they had the outdoors and they were eating out there in the open air. All of them got babies and things. They eat, you know, and carry them out there too.

AH: Would somebody be out there to take care of the children?

BM: It was a lady.

AH: You could leave your children there and then you'd go back to the . . .

BM: Then go back and forward in the church.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And ah, it was a lady out there to take care of them. I just can't remember that lady out there taking care of them children. The children weren't in church like they is now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Carry them out in the

AH: Um, hum.

BM: She allowed them to walk and then they couldn't get out because they had because on side the churches was all . . . They'd just put them out there and they can't get out on the street and nowhere.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: right in Just/around in that place.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: So that's where I use to go to the camp ground and visit different churches you know.

AH: Now where would the camp ground be?

BM: This name of the church campground was on Lynch Street in a

CONT.,

old vacant lot.

AH: Um, hum. Thats the one you went to?

BM: Yes, m'am.

AH: Were there others around?

BM: Well, ah, practically weren't nobody didn't have no tent. When my children were very small, the man next door, he was a Methodist.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Rev. Vincent.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He had a tent and his church was made out of nothing but a cloth. He had churches that He had a piano in there. And his daughter played the piano. Had carpet on the ground like this.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And walk on the carpet and they had a table in there. You two take up collection. So my children went to that, when they were small.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: My husband he'd carry them sometimes, I got chance to go. My baby was too young for me to go out in the open air.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: So he would go and carry the children.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But I got better. Out there on Sunday evening cause it was warmer.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: See you couldn't go out in the air every where with your baby. Thats what he told me.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Didn't go to no, you know, camping like the people having now. Just like Billy Graham and them have theirs out in open air.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: They didn't have too many of those way back then days. They were out in the open

AH: Um, hum. Okay.

BM: You could sit out on benches. And them benches you'd sit on and sit there just like they're in church.

AH: Um, hum. Um. hum. Now tell me about the Music they had? What kind of music did they have?

BM: Well, they had pianoes then. A little lady could play the piano. And then sometimes, the piano and then the guitars and they had a drum. All kinds of pieces. They were santified.

AH: Okay, now in your church - St. James Baptist Church . . .

BM: St. James Missionary Church.

AH: Um, hum. What kind of music did you sing when you were a child?

BM: When I was a child, they had organs.

AH: They had an organ? Did Um, hum.

BM: Yes.

AH: Did you ever remember them singing from notes?

BM: Well, they played mostly by air . . . ear the

AH: Um, hum.

BM: They didn't know nothing about no notes in them days. (Laughter)

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But my husband did. But, he didn't never sing.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He song vocal.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Choir practice song cocals in them days. Sometimes, they'd have organs, and they could sing just as good without music and they would with music.

AH: Um, hum. Now leaving the church. Ah, do you ever attend ah, times when there were big bands that would come to Jackson. Did you ever attend things like that?

BM: No.

AH: Concerts? How about Rag Time & Blues? You never attended anything like that?

BM: Naw, none of it.

AH: Have you ever attended any Rabbit Foot Shows?

BM: The old . . . no . . .

AH: Go ahead.

BM: The old folks didn't allow you and didn't tell you about no, you know, they didn't have mush then. Now back in my days here I got chance to get inside the picture show that was on Farish Street.

AH: Um, hum. What was the name of it.

BM: It was the Alamo.

AH: The Alamo

BM: Located, I think on ah, Amite Street.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Across that Creek then. They moved it there.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And ah, they done away with it because that water comes up in that place and wash so many of those different things down. So they moved it out from there right where that ah, pool place is at. Thats where that Alamo coincided.

AH: Pool or

BM: Yea, that pool table thing there now at that place is down where

AH: Farish Street?

BM: Yea, on Farish Street thats where that Alamo

AH: Farish Street and Amite.

BM: Now, well, see they moved this same one on 80. Amite Street.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Moved this Alamo over there.

AH: Down there where it is now?

BM: Thats right. Where they use to be. Got something in there

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But I never did go there. I went to Farish Street. I think I came there one time, and my brother carried me. My oldest brother that was living.

AH: How old were you then?

BM: Right around . . .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We all had We didnt have to call no boyfriend

AH: What you called them?

BM: Bold.

AH: Called them then, yea, (Laughing).

BM: Thats what they called them. My folks will be here tonight. Wednesday night . . . this night was his night coming to see me.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Friday night was his nigh. Wednesday night was our prayer service night.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He would (Car Passing by) come take me to prayer service. He would be right beside of me. Heød sing his song and pray the prayer and I sang my song and say my prayer. That was on Wednesday night.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Came back Friday night was our covenant night. Testifying is what it is. I said covenant, but it's testifying.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He'd sing this little testify, and I . . .

AH: What did he sing?

BM: He'd sing some little old song he knowed.

AH: What would you sing?

BM: Well, back then we didn't . . . I done forget all my little songs that we sang, back in those days. Some of the songs they would sing, "We Shall Wear Our Crown."

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we'd sing. We didn't sing just like until later days

AH: Um, hum.

BM: mine then, "I'm Gonna Let It Shine."

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We song nice back in those days!

AH: Nice what you call them

BM:

AH: Um, hum.

BM: So, young people, you know, they didn't have no where to go but to church, B.T.U., and little children they would . . . everybody sang a different song.

AH: Um, hum.

- BM: And one would race to get, you know, you singing this song. The other lead. Time they get through with one they'd be right behind the other. It would be a long time before you could get your tongue in.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: But sometime they'd sing your little old what you gonna sing.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: So, we singed I think I
forgotton near out all the little songs way back in them days.
- AH: Um, hum. Yea.
- BM: But they were good songs; I do tell you.
- AH: Um, ha. Did you ever hear anybody talk about Hamboning? Do you know whar a Hambone is? A kind of music that somebody made when they hit on their legs, pants, or something.
- BM: No'am. We didn't have that.
- AH: You didn't have anything like that?
- BM: We didn't have nothing like that.
- AH: Well, I want
- BM: They would talk about, you know, big sometime they
would talk about it in the olden days how they would do, but poor people practically wouldn't, you know, wasn't too in . . . old people they didn't never, you know, come up with nothing like that. They all were church people.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: They just went to Church. With those old long dresses I remember that all of them wore long dresses with the ruffle on the bottom of their dresses and ruffles on their aprons and like that.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Our pastor wore long dresses. We didn't see nothing but her top of her She had She wore

AH: What are Shoes? Kinds of shoes?

BM: The was made something like this in the front.
(Demonstrating)

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But it come up upon the side and come on round up on the side, and on each ankle. And then, made sewed up this a way. It would be curled around. Come up here. And curled around and back up this a way.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And at the back of them, they had a buckle . . . not a buckle. It resembled a thing where, just like a man's trousers; it was a thing made something just like that .

AH: Oh, I know, um, hum.

BM: You caught hold of that to pull 'em up on your feet.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Well, that was . . . I called them

AH: (Laughing)

BM: Cause my daddy wore those

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Them practically all the kinds of shoes old folks wore then in them days.

AH: I know what you are talking now.

BM: and the shoes that we wore in those days was oxford shoes.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Brown oxford shoes and rib stockings.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Cotton stockings.

AH: Um.

BM: Thats what I wore to Lanier High School when I . . .

AH: Did you object to wearing those?

BM: M'am?

AH: Did you object to wearing them or you were . . .

BM: No'am. Thats all you had to wear. You had to wear what poor folks give you.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Didn't never have a pair. I didn't wanna wear 'em. I'll be glad to get 'em.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Shine those shoes up and put them rib stockings on it.

The dresses were long. They wore long dresses half way your leg.

AH: Now when you dressed up on the weekend, what would you wear?

BM: You mean on Sunday?

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We go put on dresses.

AH: Long dresses. Now, how did you spend your weekends? What did you do on the weekend that was outstanding other than going to church?

BM: Other than going to church, we had a prayer. I lived on Jones Street. Alright; we had a um, stove. We cooked on a iron stove and had chimney stoves pines what you called it stoves. Build your fire in the stove. Start it off with pine. Put your wood in it. Alright; you're getting ready to cook and this stove has four eyes. You could have both or all four eyes full. We'd have peas, on this side, and greens on this side, we'd have the p

That was

before

They

and

in the farms and put

No cotton; didn't have no cotton. They didn't raise a whole lot of cotton.

AH: Um, hum. Out of this area?

EM: Well, you could have.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: But . . .

AH: Did anybody have cotton in this area?

EM: Well, they way out . . . way out.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: We farmed down, but we never did get up to no bail of cotton.

AH: Um.

EM: We didn't that much. We had ours in

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And had them

and these things sack hand on this side and a little string come cross the string on the side. He could tie a knot in a bow and put it into your sack. And, we pull, you had to carry it to the scale to be weighed.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: The man was there how many pounds you had picked. You had to have a 100 pounds of cotton, pick a 100 pounds of cotton a day.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: But you see children now, my mother picked more. . .

AH: Is this what you did on the weekend now?

EM: Yes, well, on weekends practically too.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I'm goinna tell you about that in a minute.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But the biggest things; see you going to school, you had to work and going to school. . . house just like school out now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You'd have you know, go to somebody's elses farm and pick cotton for that person there and sometimes you'd take on share when you come help me with my cotton. The next day I come help you with your cotton, backwards and forwards.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Then you can rent my mule. . . work my mule today and then you can pay me back. Come over and use my mule like today, for your crops. And then when the next day, you come back over and I use my mule for a share of my crop.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: To help me that day. Give me that day and I'd give you one day and you'd give me one day. So, thats the way I'll loan this problem. And, if you owned a plantation farming and ah. . . .

AH: Did they have any around this area?

BM: Well, not too many. Because they biggest they had was laying around the house.

AH: Um, hum. But there was no person who owned a plantation in this area?

BM: Well, I got a chance to go to my husbands father had . . . he was on a plantation.

AH: Where? In this area?

BM: No'am at the camp.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: You'd hear that big bell ring telling everybody to come out in the fields. Come in to dinner. I'd have dinner on the table. I'd gone on back and put the dinner on the table and have peas, cornbread, be done churned and had milk. Had a big old peach pie. We had a meat house. And I'd go in there and get some dry beef.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Fix it with some irish potatoes and oh, . . . Any thing on the table So my sister-in-law, she was there too. . .I did all the work, I cooked for thirteen of us.

AH: Um.

BM: And I washed for thirteen.

AH: Um, hum. So would you say this would be one of the events that had a great impact on your life?

BM: Well, that

AH: That was the first experience you had on a plantation?

BM: Yes, plantation.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But, we used to farm but you see farming what we did, we had some potatoes, a little cotton.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And make some out We didn't make that
much cause the crops. . .

AH: But you were doing it on your own time?

BM: Yes, mam. We done that on our own time.

AH: Um, hum. Here they had to work.

BM: See, I went up to visit her, after she had had her baby. I was
pregnant myself. And I didn't know I was pregnant until I got
up there a good little while. I noticed I was getting fat and
getting big in the front, but yet in still, I say, I maybe just
picking up. I was pregnant.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I was pregnant with my fourth child, and that was a girl.

AH: Um, hum.

BM I come home.

AH: Well, um, hum.

BM:

AH: Um, hum. Could you tell me about some other events that ah, I don't
know, that had a big impact on your life?

BM: Well, the good part about it, when the snow was on the ground. Snow
would stay on the ground for two weeks. We had horses. We had
cows and ah, we had to carry the cows to the pasture.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Put 'em inside the pasture. And in the evening each child had
sense enough, it looked like rain, they had sense enough to come

CONT.,

out of the woods, cause it was woody land. And one of these old ah, I wouldn't hear talk of it, "Little old Jenny mules."

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Would be in this . . . you could hear 'em breaking the cane. See, the fishing cane like you could fish with cane instead of having these things how they're fishing with now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Cane was all the . . . So she would come down there and cut the cane, you know, while it was green, and lay them up there and dry. And ah, they had sense enough to come out of the woods and come upon the hillsides. It would rain, rain, all day. The creek would just . . . you could just stand on our back porch when we were living on . . . cause it wasn't nothing. It was vacant. The trees were way back down. It wasn't no houses, nothing but . . . this was just a place where the cows grazed at. . . . had a

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Where the fair was. The street was Florence Street. It stopped right there at Dalton Street. Thats Florence Street.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But since they opened it up they just went on down to Terry Road with Florence Street.

AH: Um, hum.

- BM use to call that Terry Road. We use to go to Terry Road and all back in there then was woods. Nothing but woods.
- AH: Um, hum. Only white folks lived out in this area?
- BM: Old, poor ones.
- AH: Poor white folks?
- BM: Poor, poor, white people. We called that back in that time, back over there on Terry called that
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: ~~All~~ that was
- AH: Um, hum. Did any black folks live out there?
- BM: Well, they were living out, because there were ^{many} too/woods there.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: And we would go down through the woods, my sister and I, and ah, that place I think they made since they cut the highway called it ah, Jackson Packing House was there.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: It was on there, but they done moved it cross. Its a different way from where it was.
- AH: Whats over there now?
- BM: Well them building of the highway come through it.
- AH: The highways?
- BM: They moved it, and then it was another packing house.
- AH: So that would be Southeast, over here. Um, ha.

BM: Yes.

AH: Southwest.

BM: It was Southeast. Just like you'd call it Southeast.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And it would sit upon that hill, and that hill up there called
the Hill.

AH: why did they call it that?

BM: I reckon cause somebody lived and went out on Galiee. Some of them
called it Galiee Hill. People lived down in it and then you'd
climb upon a hill.

AH: Hum.

BM: You had to climb! That was a steep hill.

AH: Um.

BM: You had to do some climbing to on those hills.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And they started an old folks orphan home out there, and my
mother and a lot of other ladies would start the old folks home.

AH: Your mother started it?

BM: My mother, and then a lot of others started you see, she was working
woth it.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: The Association and different things. They had a big old house up
there. And they were trying to buy this house. And they were

Cont.,

gonna fix it up for an old folks home. They had one old lady in there, and my mother walked from Jones Street clean up there on that highway coming in to

AH: Eighty.

BM: On the corner . . . up on 80.

AH:

BM: It was way up over there. That highway was almost near about where McDonald Road comes in there.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: That was all of that land back in there was in the

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Called it Galiee Hill too.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And we'd call it the Hill. It goes on a little further. So, we farmed up there on that hill before they tried to you know, buy that.

AH: Who owned it then?

BM: I don't know. . . Mr. John Lockett, I believe at that time.

AH: Um, hum. That was a white man?

BM: Yes'am.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: He owned all that property because that lady bought her land from him.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And thats about who it was Lockett. And the, before we went upon the Hill, it was some houses but they were low down

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And the white side look like a white lady there and some daughter and they were gonna them out of there to Jackson Wasn't nothing but Jackson College . . . Campbell College, Jim Hill School at that time when I was a child.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I don't know if that was Jim Hill School. Jim Hill School turned off so many students.

AH: Um.

BM: Ooh, I could call so many girls names that I learned while I was on

AH: Um, hum. Go back to this nursing home that was started that you say the association Whats the Association?

BM: The ah, Association, you know, they all was putting up this home.

AH: Is that the church groups?

BM: They'd have this meeting back in now days. Everytime we'd hear Association here, the Convention . . . now the convention got the

AH: Um, hum. Now thats a church group, right?

BM: Thats right.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But they help these societies.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Now the convention gonna give so mcuh to this . . . and its been there every since my mother was living and I was a child, this here school back out here called . . . Natchez College.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum. Baptist Association, right.

BM: The Natchez College would be

Now the convention and things and things they had it would get . . .
be up there half of the money.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And they say the look like they ain't money.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And they say the look like they ain't moved a peg since there've been there. Its the same old

AH: (Laughing) Um, ha. Let me ask . . .

BM: We helped these schools.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But they look like only they know

AH: Yes, well, I guess people go through them. Look, do you remember the Opera House that was here in Jackson over there on Pearl Street? Did you ever hear anybody talk about that? And Opera House between Minerva and ah, Rose Street?

- BM: Well, I heard a little talk.
- AH: What did you hear about it?
- BM: Well, they just say that it was an Opera House where they'd go there and dance. They didn't have no such things as a dance like the only time we'd go.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: up there and talk about ah, these people wearing old clothes and you go to these here . . .
- AH: Plays or something?
- BM: Plays and have on . . . the raggiest one looked . . . the raggiest one would get a prize.
- AH: Oh, masquerade?
- BM: Yes.
- AH:Q Um, hum.
- BM: That was all to go too, but we never did go.
- AH: You never go to this.
- BM: Old folks didn't never take you to nothing like that.
- AH: Um, hum.
- BM: If you didn't go to church, or something that's gonna help you, you weren't going nowhere.
- AH: Yea, did you ever remember anything about black banks. The banks that were owned by black folks in the city.
- BM: I heard talk of some of those. I just didn't . . .
- AH: Um, hum. You know when that was?

BM: No, really don't know.

AH: Before you got married?

BM: Ooh, yes'am. That was way back yonder when I was a child

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum.

BM: I remember let me see, cause it was 1912. I remember 1949, I
just can remember some things in 1909
thirteen years old or

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I told you I remember that about the bell rung and it runged until
it cracked.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But I really don't know a whole lot ⁱⁿ back/those days.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: A few of this slip my rememberance.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Since I might have remembered a lot. But since I've been married
had children and worrying with children

AH: You're doing excellent.

BM: Sometimes the people get talking and my rememberance will come
back to me, you know, like that but

AH: Um, hum.

BM: A lot of it, I just can tell about the childhood days and coming
along there.

AH: Of course, you're doing reall well. Do you ever recall
when you were living out . . . lets see, you weren't born in this

CONT.,

AH: area. You were born . . .

BM: In Rankin County.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But moved here when I was two years old.

AH: What is your earliest recollection of what downtown Jackson was like?

BM: Downtown Jackson? Well, I remembered where Continental Trailways was.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: First before it moved recently.

BM: That was in my childhood then.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We'd walk with our clothes on and go way out on the other side of Capitol. . . where the new Capitol is now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: We walked way on that other side of that new Capitol to pick up white people's clothes and walked with one bundle on our heads - one upon our shoulders, and walk from there on my feet. I've covered some ground walking.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And I tell you what they did then. They had the children's home. It was way out there on West Street. And when I was having my children, I'd go out there and buy old shoes and my children would wear them to church. Old clothes and they sell 'em.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Fifteen, ten,

AH: Were they black?

EM: my children

AH: Were any black children out there?

EM: What they had a lot of children.

AH: Were they black or white?

EM: White.

AH: White children, um, ha.

EM: And then they had another. Well, this lady it didn't have an orphan home. But, she would have a lot of children . . . Mother Toy. She had clothes, you know, sold for the colored. She had a lot of clothes. A lot of people would go out there and steal clothes and put and put them things in them big larger ones, She would never know it. She would go out to get some and they had rubber in.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And they'd over at the . They never would come after you then, They'd put 'em under there and had coats on. They fold up and put it up under their arms. The big bussom, they'd put something down in the bussom.

CONT.,

I just sit there and would watch them. I didn't steal

But I've been a child . . .

that's one thing about me . . . coming up a child, I never did try to steal nothing.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Because my mother always taught us to not to steal not anything.

AH: Hum.

BM: See things, don't put your hands on them. If you bring them there she would make you carry 'em back where you got them.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Children weren't many children. The children didn't fight in those days. They were good.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Children were good to each other. And they made friends with each other.

AH: Now, could you tell me a little bit about the ah, health facilities that you had?

BM: Health?

AH: Like a hospital.

BM: Well, they didn't have but one hospital. That was Charity Hospital.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: My sister was baptized with the

AH:

EM: My sister was operated on there.

AH: Oh, I see.

EM: And they cut her left breast clean off. And you could see those holes in her nipples, you know.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: It wouldn't have happened to her but, she wouldn't let the baby nurse from her. She let that milk stay there, and the poor baby go to sucking, she'd just holler. Well, see when mine hurted, they sucked the skin off of it, but I just continued put it in and pulled it. Pull it in - pull it out till I got them done (Laughing).

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I learned all of mine, naw, nore than mine. The first child was born over to my mother's house. Ten of my children I had a little not you know, and I far as five months with one and lost that one.

AH: Um, hum.

EM:

But ten of 'em was born, The biggest nine were born in that room ritht there.

AH: Um, hum. So you didn't have to go to the hospital very often?

EM: Never been to the hospital in my life with none of the children.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I had three midwives. The first midwife was named Mrs. Getrude Williams. She was black.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: The second one, Mrs. Callie Mason. And the last one was Lillie Moore.

AH: Are any of them living now?

EM: Getrude Williams is living and Callie Mason, I think is living down to ah

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Just was just some faithful few doctors.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: A lot of people were scared of the doctors in that particular

AH: Um, hum.

EM: It was very few, and you would die before you'd get a doctor.

AH: (laugh) Um, hum.

EM: You'd have to take yourself, wrap 'em up and take 'em to the doctor.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Cause the doctor have many in his office as he do. We didn't have no big hospital.

AH: Right.

EM: But he had enough people to tend to. You know, some of his ah, patients.

CONT.,

Now, like the operation I had - it had it in ah, Dr. (Silence) . . .

What the doctor named honey? Honey? What was our doctor's name that operated on me?

HUSBAND: What say?

EM: What was our doctor's name that operated on us? (Silence)

What was our doctor's name that operated on you and I!

(Silence)

It's right there in the paper. You come out from Rose Street you know, back of your bank, between the corner of Rose.

~~HUSBAND~~: Coleman.

EM: Coleman, thats it. Dr. Coleman. You take, hows ever you get to that is the house sitting there right now. And he had it great big old hospital.

AH: On Rose Street and where?

EM: You come off of Rose Street at the corner called ah, let me see, Magnolia is running across will run into Capital Street. Magnolia Street, yea, that was the name of it. Naw, it wasn't Magnolia - Pearly Grove was on this street.

right there where the

Street and you could come down on your side and go over . . .

AH: Royal Street? Is it Royal?

EM: I reckon, so. He hunting something. (Referring to Husband) . . .

AH: What's along that Street?

You can come down the Street and go right into Capital Street . . .
Crossroad.

BM: You come to Rose Street then you could come on that little old street
right . . . the back is on the corner of Rose and Capital.

AH: Rose and Capital?

BM: Alright then, you park your car there. Now it was a laundry there
but they moved that laundry.

AH: Where was the hospital?

BM: And you know after you leave the
Masonic Temple is on the end of

AH: Capital and Rose?

BM: And then that big church its right opposite the big church, you
can't miss it.

AH: Um, ha.

BM: A great big church over on this side of that street. You know, the
street comes on up.

AH: Um, ha. That would be on the Southside of the Street.

BM: Yea, and come right on up.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Its a big old house. Its a house.

AH: Um, hum. So he had a hospital there?

BM: Yea, hospital.

AH: For black and white?

BM: For white and colored.

AH: Um, hum. Um, hum. Well thats interesting. Look could you tell me or do you remember ah, anyting about ah, recreation? How about a black doctor? Were there any black doctors in this home?

BM: ~~That~~ what?

AH: Black doctors? Doctors who were black? Colored doctors?

BM: Well, it was a fes. Cause, Dr. Smith, not . . .

AH: Not Robert Smith. (Phone ringing)

BM: And not that Smith.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I think he died. He was the only man
(Come to the telephone, Carrie, quick!)

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I went to his clinic. Now, he had a clinic. He had a house built into a clinic. (Um, ugh, its on the bed baby) . . .

AH: Um, hum.

BM: It was a clinic. And, I went to him several times before my baby was born. I went to him, something got wrong, and I went to him. Went to treat me.

AH: Um, hum.

AH: And I went there. was on the
the doctor down there now, he'd get down there
He in a
This place was I reckon
before you get to the Farish Street Baptist Church.

AH: Um, hum. Now, the Methodist Church down there.

EM: Yea, the Farrish Street Baptism Church when there was a house, out

(Tape cuts off)

AH: Well,

EM: And he there now because my sister-in-law take her mother down there recently.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: He was a colored doctor. Little old short doctor. I never did go to him.

AH: I'll catch up with him.

EM: M'am?

AH: I'll find out who that is.

EM: I didn't ^{know} no about no doctor.

AH: Did you ever go to any of the public parks here in Jackson?

EM: Parks, public park.

AH: Parks, you know, like to the zoo in the earlier dayd.

EM: Oh, yes. Yes, m'am

AH: Could you tell me

EM: When wver I would had my children.

AH: Okay, tell me about that when you went to the zoo?

EM: I went there, you know, it just like it is now.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I go to it with my children.

AH: Um, ha, did they have the colored and the white segregated then?

EM: Naw

AH: Anybody could go to the zoo, anyplace you wanted.

EM: Anybody could go and Anybody didn't have to pay, you could

MARTIN

go different places. The colored didn't swim in the swimming pool, they didn't never worry about no swimming pool

AH: Uh, hum.

EM: They just tately started that. You know.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Began the segregation, since ah, whatcha call Re whatcha call started it. poor families poor children.

AH: Um hum.

EM: He the one practicably and all the other colors.

AH: Um hum. Right

EM: But all you could go anywhere, naw, you couldn't anywhere. But, the people strated since they said, we can go in the show um, hug. We would go in the show.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Cause they had two and we didn't have one. They had two.

AH: Um hum.

EM: We couldn't go in down there the shows way down town

AH: Um, hum.

EM: There were colored rows in there, and now the crowd that thing out.

AH: Um, hum. Yea, they surely or. Um, hum. Now, let me.

EM: Ask you, I'm going to give you things, and I want you to tell me what you enjoyed most, when you enjoyed yourself the most. (1) When you were in a musical environment, you know, well, were ship that one be- because you didn't go out unless it was church.

EM: Naw, I didn't go out.

MARTIN

AH: Okay rereligious, at work, when you were doing your work at home, or when you attending something like a wedding, or playing some kinds of games, which did you enjoy yourself the most?

EM: Look like it was most are of them. (Laughing)

AH: All of 'em? Um, hum.

EM: Yes, (Laughing)

AH: You told me some of the games that you all had. What do you still enjoy doing most now.

EM: Well, now I do love to go out when my mind gone now, my mind is on setting down pleating , doing some sorty type of sewing or planting.

AH: Um, hum.

B: Now, if I just could sit down, a day you know, day after days and won't have to get up, I could accomplish some things like I want to. And making pillows.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Throw pillows like these. (Showing)

AH: Um, ha. I see you have a lot of those up there.

EM: I got Stuff pillows, I get a kick out of that.

AH: Um hum.

EM: Stuffing my pillows nd fixing nice things that I you know, never goes at the center now.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: But I crochet now. I don't know how to crochet but if I sew ah done, if I look and see it done good, I think I can it.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I ain't never got myself in doing nothing

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Always can do mostly anything anybody else can. But my mind don't worry about that crocheting. I just look, sit down, be just like I'm sitting her now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Quilting

AH: Yea, I know the other day you were sewing.

BM: And I get through yet tired and lay it aside and go to sleep. And wake up start back again. Wouldn't have to cook.

AH: Um, hum.

BM:

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I been cooking fifty some years.

AH: Um,

BM: I'm tired.

AH: Umm hum,

BM: Tired of that That song says my soul rest.

AH: (Laugh)

BM: If my soul just could rest, you know.

AH: Do you cook over there at the center now.

BM: No'am, we don't cook. Food is brought there already cook.

AH: Thats right, it's heated. Um hum.

BM: Nothing be but they got it in a container and all the use inside the container is the name of the food we eat people tend to know all about. And let it st y there from the time he'd bring the

boy bring it.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Until it get ready to serve.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Then they got those little old plastic plates, but they just about . . . just lie that long. (Demonstrating)

AH: Yes, I've seen them. I've seen them, um, hum .

BM: A little Section in there something goes in it everyone of them little sections. If it is rolhing but lay your butter

AH: Um, hum. Thats right. Um, hum.

BM: Now in the morning I bee here. Cold water is real bad. I won't drink no water I gone to the center a big old picture full and a Big old bucket full quilwater.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Cup there to get it. I just go up to it and get it and help myself.

AH: Um hum.

BM: I just like to be, you know

AH: With the folks, um, hum. Thats very good.

BM: And they enjoy it, and no fusing and no nothing and everybody right joking one another ooh, Mrs. So-and So baby sitter fo me and she her little girl. such her thumb. That lady kept salt on the table. They would open too or three packages And they'd lake it and fix if where they could pick a heam of it and go there to there and put that pepper on her thumb.

sucks

this thumb (Demonstrating)

MARTIN

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And they'd put it on there sometime she'd be made and sometime, she won't. She would laugh.

AH: (Laughing)

BM: Everybody go over there and and

AH: Um, hum. Thats good.

BM: Gives us a kick, you know, and just doing that. And I carry them sandwiches. And the use to have coffee, but I out sold out of coffee.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Give us some sort of juice. nice grapefruit juice,
had vitamins

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But anyway, it was good.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I think I dranked four of them things good size cup too.

AH: (Laughing). Well, that is good for you, yeah.

BM: I dranked that heary. I carry them buns and down to A & P Store, they had didn't get me no, I got me some bief bolana, but I done layed off beef bolonga and they got a big old piece of bolonga some of it, ain't no bolonga just about that big, bout that tall.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And you slice it like bolonga, but it ain't bolonga.

AM: Um. They used to call it the chicken bolonga, I think that's what it was.

AM: Um. Um, hum.

BM: And you slice that ting and put your meat in the skillet, put that

MARTIN

thing in there and slice it, its a whole slice. Put that thing in that shillet and bounce over on each side.

AH: Um, I gonna have to find that.

EM: And take one of them rolls them big old buns, just like McDonald have, not that big than.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Some of them loved the Meah well, some of them things just about that wide and long that thing on a put your little myonaise on the the bottom part of that roll and lay that stuff, you done cooked.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: And eat

AH: You eat you something good, ha (Laughing)

EM: Lord you talking lasting good -so tasty.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Seasoned so good. Whatever it is it on there say chicken.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Chicken Bolonga. The give bought some I say its right there with the bolonga.

AH: I'm gonna have to check that out.

EM: there by the bolonga.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: Good little while.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: We children get to eat.

AH: Yea, right

EM: You get this old bolonga and lay it down it sours and do something.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: skin that skin off but all you do is
take it out of that some of it in plastic paper and some of it
have the had tape on it just like the bolonga.

AH: Um, hum. Do with ah what you recall from the line you were a child.

Well, lets talk abo t when you were a child, or the relationship bet-
ween blacks folks and white folks. What was it like?

EM: What you say now, tell me again?

AH: When you were a child, lets say when you were going to school the time
you were in school. Do you recall any incidents that tell us something
about relationshy between white folks and black folks?

EM: When I was going to school?

AH: I know you told me about your working for them, and all that.

EM: Didn't have much coincidense of bing in those days.

AH: Um, hum. What was your attitude toward white folks then?

EM: Well as long as they treat me right it was alright (Laugh) When I was
I worked

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I worked at I worked about. Wait let me see how old
was I when I was working. I was in my fiftes.

AH: What were you doing?

EM: Cleaning up. Cleaning up offices.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: I used to clean up offices running the oil map dust map and dusting off
these ah, glass tops to the little.

AH: Um, hum. Was that when you were a child or when you were fifty years

MARTIN

80

old.

EM: No, no, that's since I've been married. I worked
I was single when I worked at this place.

but

MARTIN

Side 4, Tape II

And carry for the boy police. See they had the for
the lady. They stack it upon a stack and getting ready and have an order
for that, and they had to get that candy ready before that order. And
then they'd take me over there and put me back on the thing and I'd be
doing different things.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: We were fixing to eat supper. I was around cooking to see what had happen.
They had a big old barrel there, and in this barrel was some white stuff.
Had I said to the white boy, I said, "What is this"? He said, "Amonin."
I say, "what you do with it." I arhed some question, he said "put it in
the cookies. I said, "well what you put it in the cookies for. He say, you
you use that instead of baking powder. And I peeped and I was looking
out through the but I got up enough to see over tin there, to see
the dough. In that dough was some of the biggest dough weevils I've

They had done come up on top of the dough. The dough
had done

AH: Um.

EM: And it gets upon there. I said, "oh, boy, I said, ooh look at the weevil.
I said how you gonna' got all them weevils. You know what that white boy told
told me? He said all of them goes through. All them weevils, we eat every-
body eating big cricket meat.

AH: Um, hum (laughter)

EM: But they don't know it.

AH: Eating all them weevils. Yea, I can mighine. I've heard some new stories
about those type of things.

EM: That put me anh of that dough and and everyting else.

MARTIN

AH: Um, hum. You know, I think I've taken up so much of your time, but you know I would like to have your reaction to

BM: Naw, can't take up my time. I'm enjoying it.

AH: Um, hum. I would like to have your reaction to the civil Rights Movement? And what did you think of it Sex'ties.

BM: Ooh, it went good. It was good.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Now reason I Now if I hadn't gone to this Senior Citizen with these lot of people I wouldn't have known so many people tans I've known now.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And they are lovely people all of them, just lovely, my nave ranging every Mrs. Martin this Mrs. Martin that Mrs. Martin and I just enjoyed from my family from my table to go way up here to this there table and looking at that fellow make this and make that and just get a kick out of it. Say, you got any Soup Soup wo ld be good. Such and Such a thing. Say bring me name. I come on home like that and I get my bag. See so many people gave me I don't know why.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I am so I just love that.

AH: Um, hum. Did you ah

BM: People give me a lot of clothes, and where I can't use them for my children, I get them ready now these is my raps here.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Not but making pillows for the bed. I'm changing my pillow. I'm doing like the old like the old folks use to do, I like my cotton pillows, I don't like that spung stuff.

MARTIN

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And then thermal pillows. Now, I got some pillows or old as I've been married, fifty years. And that stuff done creimbled up into just crumbs. And ah, and began to smell, and, I got rid of them and made cotton.

AH: So you are making you some more pillow?

BM: Cotton pillows

AH: Um, hum.

B: I pay five dollars for that cotton and it didn't make but three pillows pillows. Now, I've got some cotton, I 've had a good while some white cotton. I was going to st up some pillows. . . . you know make them little throw pillows.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Use some sponge. But, I liked to use this

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Kind of a what

AH: look like. Um, hum.

BM: And that old spongs stuff, I don't like that.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: But that cotton there. And I love to sit down. I could done fnished my pillows, if I were sitting down. And I get up and get my

AH: Were

BM: And everything. I could make more pillows than a little. My mind just that's all I got on my mind

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I'd like to see you make some more
BM: (long)

MARTIN

BM: Ain't got my mind to go nobody.

AH: (Laughing)

BM: Doing anything I rather stay at home.

AH: Wornng that yes, well thats nice, Senior Citizens really do wonders for you.

BM: Having good things I So, they ah, make so many different things. And they gladly give you a pattern of what ever they make, or either show you what they're doing

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And then, they'd have a big cooler there and you get the water, you get this and, you get that. You just enjoy yourself meeting so many people.

AH: Um, hum. Let me ash you aone other thing? Remember during the sixies, 1960's when they had the freedom riders and all coming through here?

BM: Um, hum. I got chance to go into this ona. This one

AH: What?

BM: I got chance to go in the frrdom train the spring this year, when they had it this time. This year.

AH: The train that was down there.

BM: Down there to the where the Senior Citezens didn't have to pay.

AH: Ooh, thats interesting.

BM: And I got chance to get in and sister_in-law had an hold my sister in law had this hand and when I got to the place they said watch your step. It was a police reaching for your hand. My old boy-friend.

AH: Did you all go as a group with your center?

MARTIN

BM: Well, she my sister-in-law my husband

AH: Um, hum.

BM: My sister paid a dollar and I paid a dollar.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And my daughter, she had done paid for there children. The children tickets were

AH: It was really nice, ha. Um, ha. I took my children to that

BM: Yea, I don't know what she paid, how she carried all of her children that she had and I pain for one of the girls too.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: And my sister-in-law carried us all in a car. And I got chance to get in to see that beautiful train.

AH: Um, hum.

BM: It was reall good!

AH: Um, hum.

BM: Yes'm and we got in it years back!

AH: Um, hum.

BM: I children, my husband he was on, now the ah, what that bread-house name? What was no, not the Golden Crust. Now, the Golden Crust was all on the . They had a place where they feed you and then this here bread, what you got now what did that bread what did that bread

AH: Colonial Bread.

BM: Colonial Bread. You know, Colonial House is right opposite where the



MARTIN

Freedom Train was upon that railroad.

AH: Um hum.

EM: That up in there now

AH: McCarty thats where you're talking about.

EM: No'am way up way up town. Way up near boot to State Street.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: That Freedom Train come in that time. Then we saw another train that they had (loud transportational noise.)

AH: What was that one like?

EM: Well, you got in it for. You didn't have too pay. We got in it what free. Went in to see it The Freedom Train. Years back w-a-y back when my sister was small. And my daddy carry us to see it. Thats one thing good about him. He would get us all up. I had an old F-model Ford and we put all of the thirteen of us in there. He would carry us to so many places. You know, one thing: One Sunday after church you know, where he taken us too. He taken us to the old Capital and let us see all of those things there. Then he taken us to the new Captial, let us see all of them different kind of shoes they wore way, back in them days. See, I didn't know nothing about those kinds of shoes wooden shoes, that they have in the new Capital and the old Capital.

AH: Um, hum.

EM: But the old Capital I got a chance to go in there and went upon the second or third floor to get my boys school record before I could get in

AH: Um, hum. Well, thats interesting.

EM: Thats where my school record is.

AH: Ah, um, hum. . . . I'm going to have to thank you for your time and I've

MARTIN

taken up two days of your time. And do you mind if we use this for so
scholarly purposes at Jackson State University?

EM: Say, do I do what?

AH: Would you mind if other scholars were to use your information write their
papers and stuff.

EM: No'am, if I could help any, help them.

End Of Interview

- Alamo, p. 46, 47
- Background, p. 1, 3, 65
 birth, p. 1
 baptism, p. 40-41
 children, p. 1, 2, 22, 23,
 pp. 67-69
 cows, p. 9, 10, 56
 education, p. 3, 4, 14, 16
 family, p. 5, 21, 22, 23, 33, 34
 house, p. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
 husband, p. 21, 22
 maiden name, p. 5
 marriage, p. 15, 21
 occupation, p. 2, 80, 81
 mother's p. 25, 26, 28, 29, 33
 sisters and brothers, p. 4, 5
- Banks, p. 63, 64
- Black Doctors, p. 72
 Dr. Smith, p. 72
- Blind Institute, p. 14, 15
 laundry, p. 15, 16
- Biscuits, making p. 17-19
- ~~Bows~~ (Boys), p. 47
- ~~Bus~~ Brown, George, p. 22
- ✓ Campbell College, p. 61
- Camp Grounds, p. 42, 43, 44
- Children's Home, p. 65-67
- Churches, p. 32, 38
 Farish Baptist Church, p. 73
 Pleasant Grove, p. 32, 33
 St. James Missionary Baptist,
 p. 40, 44
- Civil War, p. 26
- Coke-Cola Plant, p.
- Continental Trailways, p. 65
- Convention, p. 62
- Cotton, p. 53, 54
- Cotton Pillows, p. 85
- Crawford, M. D. p. 39 *Handwritten note*
- Cropping, p. 11, 53, 54
- Crump, pp. 11-13
- Davis, Edith, p. 41 *Handwritten note*
- Duddleyville, p. 58
- Father's Day, p. 33
- Fishing Cane, p. 57
- Florence Street, p. 57
- Freedom Train, p. 84, 85, 86
- Galilee Hill, p. 59, 60, 61
- Gators, p. 50-51
- "Good Ole Days", p. 25
 description, p. 1-25
 summary, p. 25
- "Good Times", p. 5, 6
 B.T.U. p. 6, 48
 in the woods, p. 8
 parties, p. 6
 playing "Old Gray Horse",
 p. 6, 7
 popcorn, p. 7
 roasted peanuts, p. 7
 sugar cane, p. 7
 swings, p. 8
- Grate p. 22*
- Grave & Collins, p. 35

- ~~Greats~~
~~Greats~~, p. 22
- Halleys, p. 48
- Health facilities, pp. 67-71
 Charity Hospital, p. 67-68
 Clinics, p. 72
 Doctors, p. 69
 Hospitals, p. 69
 Midwives, p. 69
- Hickory*
 Hickeynuts, p. 8, 9
- Highway 80, p. 60
- Hogan, J. C., p. 13
- Horse & Buggy, p. 32
- Ice, p. 24
 price, p. 24
- Ice Boxes, p. 23, 24
- Ice Water, p. 24
- Iron wood stove, p. 23
- Jackson College, p. 61
- Jackson Packing House, p. 58
- Jenny Mules, p. 57
- Jockey shorts, p. 30
- Liberty Bell, p. 26, 64
- Long Dresses, p. 50, 52
- Luckett, John, p. 60
- Meat, p. 79, 80
 Chicken bolonga, p. 79, 80
- Meat House, p. 55
- Midwives, p. 69
 Mrs. Getrude Williams,
 p. 69
 Mrs. Callie Mason, p. 69
 Mrs. Lillie Moore, p. 69
- Milking cows, p. 9, 10
- Mother's Day, p. 33
- Mother Troy, p. 66
MUSCADINE, p. 8
- Music, p. 49
 church, p. 45, 48, 49
 concerts, p. 45
 hamboning, p. 49
 Rag Time Blues, p. 45
- ~~Musterdimes~~, p. 8
- Cal* — Natchez College, p. 62
- Old Capitol, p. 86
- Old Folks Home, p. 59, 60
- Opera House, p. 62, 63
- Plantations, p. 54, 55, 56
- Preachers,
 Chambers, Rev. p. 38, 50
 Crawford, M. D. p. 39
 Vincient, Rev. p. 43
- Primers, p. 4
- Public Parks, p. 73
- Rabbit Foot Shows, p. 45, 46
- Recollections of Downtown
 Jackson, p. 65, 67
- ~~Refigedar~~, p. 23

BEATRICE MARTIN

Rent, p. 20

Rib stockings, p. 31, 52

Senior Citizen Insights, p. 76,
77, 78, 81, 82, 84

Schools,
Jim Hill, p. 3, 4, 61
Lanier High, p. 4

Shoes, p. 50, 51, 52
Kids, p. 51, 52
Old Folks, p. 51

Shimmies, p. 27, 28

Slips, p. 29

Societies, p. 34
Bell Association, p. 59, 61, 62
The Eagle Society, p. 35, 36
Three Eagle Bell Association, p. 34

Stone poles, p. 19, 22

Stuff Pillows, p. 75, 82, 83

Tent Revivals, p. 38, 39, 42
Brush Harbors, p. 38-42

Underskirts, p. 27, 28, 29

Weekends, p. 50

Whiteside, Mrs., p. 61

Wigwam, p. 12

Wild Grapes, p. 8

~~Williams, Cetrude, p. 69~~

World War I, p. 26