

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

ORAL HISTORY STUDY OF:
SENIOR CITIZEN'S
RECOLLECTIONS OF THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

MISS ANNETTE BARNES

Interviewed

by

Miss Deborah Denard

on

August 12, 1976

O. H. 76.21

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, Miss Annette Barnes 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.

Miss Annette Barnes
Interviewee (Signature)

8-12-76
Date

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Miss Annette Barnes was born in 1905 in Mount Olive, Mississippi. She is the second of three children. Her father was a druggist and moved to Jackson in 1909 to open the Barnes Drug Store. Miss Barnes worked for many years in the S. K. Kress store in downtown Jackson. She has never married and lives alone.

SUMMARY

The interview was conducted in Miss Barnes' home on Whitten Road in Jackson, Mississippi. At the time she was keeping her nephew's son, two year old Bill, who is heard often in the background of the tape.

The "Good Old Days" to Miss Barnes were represented by those times she can look back upon and realize that times were not as hard as they were then thought to be, especially compared to today. She remembers her childhood in Jackson as carrying a certain amount of responsibility while at the same time being filled with fun.

Miss Barnes attended public schools in Jackson and has a vivid memory of many renown educators in the city. She also recalls the location of many businesses in downtown Jackson, because of the length of time she worked on Capitol Street, starting in 1925.

Miss Barnes has a 1922 year book from Central High School although she did not graduate until 1925. She also has several interesting pictures of the Porter Street area of Jackson where she grew up. This area is

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INTERVIEWEE: Miss Annette Barnes

INTERVIEWER: Miss Deborah Denard

SUBJECT: "Good Old Days"

DATE: August 12, 1976

D: Today is August 12, 1976. I'm interviewing Miss Annette Barnes in her home at 3105 Whitney Road, Jackson, Mississippi. Miss Barnes and I are going to talk about the "Good Old Days" in Jackson.

Miss Barnes, when and where were you born?

B: When and where? I was born in Mount Olive, Mississippi in 1905. My daddy moved to Jackson in 1909 and Dalton Street wasn't even paved then.

D: It wasn't?

B: No, I think they paved it in 1910 or 1911. I remember when they paved it.

D: And where were you living when you first moved here?

B: On Porter Street.

D: Oh yes, in that house you showed me on this picture.

B: And that was made in 1912.

D: And the city limits were on the other side of the house?

- B: They wasn't to Battlefield, I mean Winter's Woods then, but Battlefield Park now.
- D: So Battlefield Park was Winter's Woods then?
- B: And we use to go down there where they dug out trenches and fought there.
- D: Uh, huh.
- B: We use to go down there and hide and play with one another. And my brother and myself use to go down there and hunt. My daddy had a double-barrel shotgun. I use to go down there and put that thing in the fork of the tree and fire it.
- D: Uh, huh.
- B: We use to go down there and hunt wild violets and dogwoods in the summer. There was no sidewalks, just a gravel street. You see all 'em telephone poles, how they stuck up 'round ya. Folks says time for them. This street wasn't even open here, Beach Street, and there.
- D: What street was this? Beach?
- B: Beach, it was then. I don't know what the name of it now. Now back here is that hospital . . . what you called it?
- D: It's a hospital?
- B: Ya, the Community Hospital.
- D: Community Hospital was back there. That was across from your house. Kind of across from your house?
- B: No, that was down off Beach Street, right down there.
- D: Uh, huh, I see.
- B: And see they had the wooden bridge there.
- D: So the first house you lived in was on Porter Street.
- B: Uh, Porter Street.
- D: Okay. When did you start school?

B: I started school when I was six years old.

D: Uh, huh.

B: 1911.

D: Where did you go?

B: George.

D: George? Where is that?

B: George School? That was down there on Gallatin Street.

D: Uh, huh.

B: They paved that I think, you see.

D: When did they pave it?

B: I think they paved that pavement or had just paved it before I started school. You saw the picture of the school.

D: George?

B: George School.

D: I saw that.

B: At ah, the crossing the railroad crossing, my daddy had a drug store on Rankin Street.

D: What was the name of it?

B: Barnes Drug Store.

D: On Rankin Street?

B: And ah, he moved it. He didn't stay there very long. He moved it up on the corner of Porter and Gallatin.

D: Uh.

B: And then the railroad track was down. They wasn't up then. And the flag man use to flag the people across the street then. And we use to go out there and walk up and down the railroad when we were kids. Oh, I got more whippings about that.

D: How many sisters and brothers do you have?

B: I have one sister and one brother.

D: One sister and one brother? Who is the oldest?

B: My sister. She is dead.

D: Uh.

B: My brother is the youngest, and ah, he lives over here at Ridgeland.

D: So there were just three of you and your parents.

B: Uh, hum.

D: Okay, what kind of good time did you-all have at home?

B: Oh, we had a good time at home.

D: What kind of things did you do?

B: Anything and everything. Just ah, get in devilment just like kids do.

D: Uh.

B: And then ah, when Mayor Scott was running for office . . .

D: Uh.

B: Walter Scott. My daddy fell in with him. He put a Park down there for the kids to play on Oak Dale. There is no park at that end of town at all, and the kids would just play out in the streets under the street light.

D: Uh.

B: That was their gathering place.

D: Uh.

B: So he /Major Scott/ told him if he was elected for office, he would put a park down there. So he did and we all began to go down there to the park. We had ball games down there and ah, band music . . .

D: Uh.

- B: Surely did.
- D: Was this before you started to school or while you were going to school?
- B: No, while I was going to school. I was about twelve or thirteen years old then, and then the war came in nineteen, ah, let me see ah, in October 1918 I believe it was.
- D: Uh.
- B: And the soldiers would march up and down, go on marching up Porter Street then down and circle back to Livingston Park where they would be camped.
- D: This was World War I?
- B: Yep.
- D: You dropped your picture there. (Interruption)
- B: And after they left, well, they turned that camp into a park.
- D: The camp was where Battlefield Park is?
- B: No, the camp was at Livingston Park - where Livingston Park is now.
- D: Oh, Livingston Park?
- B: That's where the soldiers were at camp doing World War I, and then they began to open up a street called Winter Street which was open up and Beach Street was opened up. Then they began to build houses all out in there.
- D: Uh.
- B: Then ah, there's a friend of ours had a house right in the middle of the square of Beach, Winter, and Hunter Street and also Porter Street. It was a big old two-story house where she lived right up there in the pasture.
- D: Uh, huh.
- B: We use to go up there and play in that pasture and we watched them open up Winter Street sitting out there under a tree talking about what we were going to do when we got big . . . when we got grown. You know how kids talked then.

D: Uh, huh.

B: I don't think none of it turned out right. (Laughter)

D: Well, how you mean?

B: Well, everybody is scattered, went from one place to the other.

D: Let me ask you this, I meant to ask you this earlier-when you hear somebody say "Good Old Days" what do you think about or what does that mean to you?

B: Well, I think when you draw up the thing after you get grown, you can look back and see what good time you use to have when you were kids. And, you thought you was having a hard time when you wasn't having a hard time.

D: Uh, I see.

B: My mother use to make us work. She stayed in the store a lot and she make us work. She said she wasn't going to have us running up and down the street so when school was out we took over the washing, and the ironing, and the scrubbing. She made us keep house and cook dinner. Kids don't do that now.

D: That's right.

B: No sir, they don't do that now. They wait to mother come home from work, then they do it. Then the mother has to do it. I was glad we were raised like we were 'cause I know how to do most of anything I want to do.

D: What kind of good time did you have while you were in elementary school? What kind of games did you play?

B: Oh, we had . . . ah, what kinds of games we played? Dodgeball, basketball, baseball, volleyball. We had ah, and then ah, (Baby interrupts)

D: Uh.

B: We'd go out and have picnics. I remember when Mrs. Laura Lester was principal of George School. One year she had us all out to her house on a picnic right at the end of school. I really enjoyed that 'cause everybody brought a picnic lunch and all spread together. They lived down here on Terry Road. You know where they live - the Lesters?

D: No.

B: You know where that (Commentary Light?) is.

D: Yes.

B: They live right there--that old house been moved around. Mrs. Annie lives in it. And, we had a good time. Terry Road is not like it use to be.

D: Uh.

B: It use to be gravel, but now it's paved. This used to be way out in the country. On weekends, [Saturday] a neighbor of ours and my mother and myself and my sister and brother would all go walking and we would walk from where our house is on up where McDowell Road go down and around. We would go on Gallatin Street and go on back.

D: From Porter Street to McDowell?

B: Yes, we just played. We gathered rocks, and we'd throw them. It didn't seem like it was no distance at all. But now I can look back. It's a long ways.

D: Did you-all enjoy

B: We enjoyed when we were kids.

D: Uh.

B: And down there at the corner of Raymond Road and Terry Road, they use to call it the fork in the road. The vegetable wagon and thing would gather there, you know. People go down there and buy their vegetables. And now when they got the Farmer's Market, they stopped all that.

D: Uh, huh. What kind of vegetables? Did they just sell vegetables or did they sell other things down there?

B: Well, just like what they had at Farmer's Market: Watermelons, cantaloupes, peaches, beans, and peas. Most of any kind of vegetables you can think of.

D: Do you remember people who use to come through and sing those songs about what they had to sell like the peas, and beans?

B: Oh, you mean a . . .

D: The peddlers.

B: Yes, we use to buy from the wagon we called them.

D: Uh, huh.

B: They had a bell that ring.

D: Oh, they did?

B: And they called out, "Fresh peas, Fresh butterbeans." We had a garden, but sometimes we would run out and get stuff off the wagon.

Now there was a colored woman who lived down here--Lula Lockett. I don't know where she lived. I think it was down there the other side of ah, Battlefield Park back over there toward Lynches' Creek.. Well, she use to kill rabbits and squirrels and bring them to us. mama would buy from her.

D: Lula Lockett?

B: Yep, Lula Lockett.

D: How much would she sell them for?

B: I don't . . . Oh, about fifty or sixty cents. And whenever she killed any she would bring them to my mother and my mother would take them. Boy, she could fix them, and they was so good. I tried to fix like that, but I can't do it.

D: Okay, were you at George Elementary School?

B: Uh.

D: You-all played games and that kind of thing--your brothers. How far in ages were you and your brothers and sister?

B: Not quite two years apart.

D: So you-all was right along together?

B: Yep.

D: After you got out of elementary school, the war was going on while you were there. Yep.

B: And 1911, and on up.

D: Uh.

B: That's when that flu broke out.

D: What flu?

B: That ah, ah, everyone catch the flu. I don't ah, know what they called it but people . . . They called it the flu then. So many people died on that street with it.

D: That was . . .

B: In 1917 or 1918. That could have been right after the War.

D: A lot of people died?

B: Woo, they sure did.

D: Did anybody in your family have it.

B: No, my daddy had, but none of the rest of them had it.

D: Uh. He got alright.

B: Yea, he got alright. But, ah, there . . . let me see there was one, two, three, four, about five people right around the neighborhood died with that stuff.

D: Uh.

B: They did not know what to do for it. It was something new and ah, they said it was rough. It would hit you just like that if you got pneumonia then. The first thing you know, you was gone. It was just like ah, Leaping Flu. Something like on the same order. I mean it was rough time then. They closed the school down then on count of it.

D: They did?

B: Sure did.

D: Around 1917? Okay, let me ask you this. World War I was going on - what other memories do you have of World War I other than the soldiers being in that camp.

B: Well, ah, when the World War ended, I think it ended in 1918. I'm not sure. When the war ended about four o'clock in the morning, ah,

we were awoken by a newspaper boy hollering out, "Extra, Extra, Extra." My sister woke me up said, "Annette listen" and I said, "What is it"? She said, "They are hollering 'Extra' out there." Lets get up and see what it is and ah, mother and daddy and all the rest were asleep. We got up and lit the lamp. We didn't have electricity.

D: Uh.

B: We lit the lamp, then ah, there was a little old boy out there on the corner. I ran out there and said, "Hey, hey, we want a paper." So, we got the paper and it said, the War had ended. And, of course, ah, I don't know was it the next day or the next day they put on a big air show about it.

D: Uh.

B: I was up over to the house and my mother and daddy was telling me to come on down to the store and watch the air show. We climbed upon the top of the store - it was where we could see it--the planes better. And they dived and they did all kinds of things in the air. I mean the bell rang, the whistles blew. You couldn't sleep. I don't see why it didn't wake everybody up in Jackson.

And I remember when we first moved here. They didn't have pure water. We had to purify our water.

D: Uh, huh.

B: When I was seven or eight years old, they began to do something to the water to purify it. They then ah, celebrated the coming of having pure water. I don't know what year that was, but from then on well, the water was purer than what it had been.

D: Uh.

B: Jackson sure has grown along. This use to be way out in the country.

D: What church were you-all affiliated with while you were a child?

B: Ah, was one at Rankin Street Methodist Church and it moved up on Winter Street and now it's Grace Methodist Church.

D: Uh.

B: We went there and then we went from there to Capitol Street Church.

D: Uh, huh. Okay, what rememberance do you have of the good times in the Church? In Church activities?

B: Ah, what you mean?

D: Were there any activities in the church like maybe during revivals or church socials and things like that.

B: Well, now when ah . . .

D: When you were a child?

B: Now, I don't remember so much about ah, Rankin Street because it was just a small church. But Capitol Street Church, we use to have picnics and things like that. We did plays and sing.

D: Uh.

B: We had picnics going on then. But, it wasn't too much ah, during then like there are now.

D: Uh. Were there any differences in the songs would you say?

B: Naw, we sang the same old songs. Same ones.

D: Okay, lets move up to when you were in junior high school. What good times do you remember in school or at home or in church? What junior high did you go to first?

B: Ah, I went to Central first and they built Enochs, then I went back to Enochs, and back to Central. Yea, I just had one year there at Enochs, that was 1922. I don't know, ah, they didn't do too much then that I remember.

D: Uh.

B: 'Cause they had there at Central, they put on plays for children to be in, but we didn't ah, do anything like that. We went to the shows most of every evening after we got out of school.

D: Almost every evening?

B: Nearly every evening.

D: What show did you go to?

B: There was two shows here: the Majestic and the Istrione. The Istrione was on that side of the street, and the Majestic was on this side of the street.

D: What street was that, Capitol?

B: Capitol Street.

D: Okay, how do you spell that Istrione?

B: Istrione.

D: Um, hum.

B: And ah, it use to be drug stores on Capitol Street - Kelly Drug Stores, and Terry Drug Stores, and ah, Hall Drug Store.

D: Uh.

B: (Baby talking, I can't here . . .) And, it use to be some house on Capitol Street right there where in between the post, where the post office enclosed at ah, werethe Todd's use to live up there. And Mrs. Wowlny use to live down there where ah, let me see. I don 't know, it close to Town Creek where Town Creek use to run under there.

D: What was her name?

B: Wowlny. W-o-w-l-n-y.

D: The drug store, do they have soda fountains or something like that?

B: Yea, they have soda fountains in there. Let me see now, Hall Drug Store did not have, but the other did--that's been a long time

D: Uh.

B: (Laugh)

D: You-all would go in there in the afternoon?

B: Well sometime we would? Most of the time we would just make a break for the show. 'Cause ah, we'd stay in there until just about dark. Then we go home.

D: What kind of movies would there be?

B: "The Glory Swanson," and "The Wallace Reed," and ah, "Rudolph Valentine." I remember he played in the "Sheik," that was good. Ah, Mary Pickford, and "Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm."

During the war, let's see. They had ah . . . I done forgot the name of it. Ah, . . . "Eagle Eye" I believe it was the name of it. I'm not sure, but we use to go there every Wednesday to see that. And during ah, the second World War, I believe they sold bonds and things. I believe it was the second.

D: Who sold bonds?

B: Everybody here would buy bonds.

D: Oh?

B: You know, war bonds.

D: Oh, I see. How much would it cost you to go to the movies when you were little?

B: (Laughing) Twenty-five cents.

D: Twenty-five cents?

B: Fifteen or twenty-five cents. That was a lot too, but it wasn't as much as it was then. Of course, it more than that now.

D: What about when you was in high school? Your social activity or whatever?

B: Well, ah, they had the High-Y. They had the Glee Club and ah, different ones like that. I didn't belong to any of them.

D: Uh.

B: 'Cause they met after school, and I just didn't want to stay after school.

D: I see.

B: We had other things to do.

D: Let me see. When you were a child in the church, did you-all ever have meetings where they would serve dinners on the ground?

B: Naw, not here, not here in that church. Not since I was there. Now, the first time I went to an all-day singing and preaching . . . whatever it is, they served dinner. I looked at that table, and I didn't know you could go there and get just what you wants. I always . . . We had to pay.

D: Uh.

B: My sister's boyfriend said, "Annette get what you want." I said, "just get your plate and help yourself"? He said, "Yea." And I did, and "boy" that good old country cooking tasted so good.

D: Where was this?

B: Lets see. It was out from ah, out from Morton, I believe.

D: Uh.

B: Out in the country. One time we went to my aunt out from Mount Olive to live out there.

Do you know where Good Hope is out from Mount Olive?

D: Good Hope? It sound familiar, but I can't place it right now.

B: Its a little church. It's a Baptist church out there. It's New Hope or Good Hope, one.

D: New Hope, I think it is. It might be Good Hope, I guess.

B: Anyway, we were visiting my aunt out there one summer and they was having revival. They were going to have dinner on the ground. So she fixed a lunch and we all went out there and ate. We went out there in a buggy and horse. We ate, but I was small then---I don't remember too much about it.

D: When you think about weddings, funerals, and things like that, what difference do you see with the customs now. I guess the social traditions now as opposed to them when you were a child growing up.

B: In general?

D: What things did they do differently?

B: Well, now there wasn't but one funeral parlor here then. That was ah, Taylor Funeral Home between ah, President and Northwest--just about where that ah, Presbyterian Church is. The Funeral Parlor was right in there and ah, it burn. That building burn, and it moved over on ah, I don't know whether it was President Street or Congress Street.

D: Uh.

B: Finally, they sold out. I don't know. I don't remember who had it then, but only way I can remember that they had a mummy in there and people would go by there to look at the mummy.

D: They had a mummy?

B: Skelton. Larmar Street wasn't open up then--that was ah, the creek. They opened that up then they opened up Larmar Street on the North end.

B: Now Amite Street was a dead-end street running into Lamar. That big old two story use to set right in the middle of Lamar Street. They moved it 'round there where ah, Capital Bowling Company is now and opened Amite Street. I went to Central High--that street wasn't open up.

D: Was funerals conducted any different?

B: Well, now ah, there's a little girl died on Porter Street, and they didn't take her to the funeral home. They didn't ah, they didn't embalm then like they do now. 'Cause they didn't. They made her dress and dressed her right there at the house. Of course, the funeral home had the hurst to put the ah, casket in. I don't guess they embalmed them. They didn't her. They ah, took camphor and wipe their face, you know. Rub it on the cheeks and turn it.

D: Camphor?

B: Yes, camphor.

D: You remember her funeral?

B: I just can. She was buried from the house. I don't know whether they went to the church with her or not. I don't remember that now. Or they had her out to the cemetery one. Buried her at Sea Lion.

D: What about the weddings?

B: Well, I don't remember too much about the weddings?

D: Uh.

B: But they didn't put on as bigger show then they do now with them.

D: I see. Okay, when did you graduate from high school?

B: Ah, let me see. Nineteen twenty or ninety twenty-five, I believe.

D: What did you do after you got out of high school?

B: I went to work for Kress I went to work there in twenty-five--on August of '25. I worked there thirty-five and a half years. When they moved uptown, the new store opened up. I went to the new store. When they closed up, I went to (McKroger?) I went there and worked until '71.

D: I see. Okay, you were a sales lady?

B: Well, I started as sales lady up at the Jones' store. Then I got to

be floor manager until they closed the store up and moved to the new store. Then I had about four or five departments downtown there. And when they closed up, I went to (McKroger?) and I was a checker and sales person too. It was self service and you just worked anywhere it was needed.

D: I see. Okay, what were the good times at work?

B: We had good times at work.

D: What kind of things did you enjoy about your work?

B: Up at the old place we use to go on fish fries and watermelon cuttings when we got off. We would have picnics there at the store. You know, gather up in the lounge. We'd hold Christmas parties there.

Down at the Kress store, we did the same things. On birthdays down at the new Kress when anybody have a birthday, we'd get the cake and presents.

D: What kind of money were you making when you first started?

B: One dollar a day.

D: Dollar a day?

B: In 1925. That was big pay.

D: What were your hours?

B: From ten until ten. We worked from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We had an hour for dinner and a hour for supper. Then they got this NRA during World War II---I don't know if it was before or after. They they begin to cut down on the hours. They shortened the hours to sixty hours a week, I believe.

D: Uh, uh.

B: Later on, they come on down to about forty hours a week.

D: Were you still living at home when you first started to work?

B: Oh yea, I always lived at home.

D: What were prices like since you were making a dollar a day for things you had to buy?

B: Well, now bacon were fifteen cents a pound. Eggs, sometime they would be on sale for eighteen cent a dozen. And then, we had buttermilk for ten cents a gallon.

D: I see.

B: I remember sugar being five pounds for twenty-five cents.

D: Ooh.

B: Ten pounds for fifty cents---that was during World War I. They use to ration the sugar during World War I. My mother and a neighbor use to go and take us kids to the store, and she'd get some and then we'd get some.

D: Do you remember community canning where the ladies got together and canned?

B: No, that was out in the country--that wasn't here in Jackson.

D: What about quilting?

B: Naw, no quilting.

D: What about butchering hogs, or cows? Did they do that in the community?

B: Naw, not here in town. At least, I don't remember that. Now, they do. They didn't do it out here. They did it in the country. They traded some of the meat then, and my mother and dad would get some of it.

D: I see.

B: They made them quit doing that. They use to have a slaughter pin down there on Gallatin Street, and Joe Whiteside I believe was who had charge of the slaughterhouse.

D: Uh.

B: Now I don't know where about on Gallatin.

D: Okay, you stated that you started working in 1925, do you remember the Flood of 1927?

B: Where at Greenville?

D: I think it . . . Did it . . . I think it flooded Capitol Street a little bit. It wasn't as bad as up in that Greenville area tho.

B: I remember it did, but they use to have floods on Capitol Street. One time they had a big flood and this ah, board was going floating down the river with a rooster on it crowing.

D: Really?

- B: Rooster was sitting on top of the board.
- D: Would it ever flood in the stores?
- B: Not where I worked, but it was still flooding there on Capitol Street in When Town Creek would get up, all down in Montgomery Ward Building there and . . . all down in there. They had a big fire truck come down there and pump it out--that hadn't been too long ago while I was working there.
- D: I need to go back and ask you a thing or two. When you were a teenager, what were the traditions about dating and that kind of thing. Courtship, how was that carried on as of opposed to the way it's done now?
- B: Well, they'd have time set for kids to be in, and they'd have to be in at that time. They didn't . . . Well, then the car was beginning to come in, and whenever they'd date they'd go to a show or something like that. Most of the kids didn't have cars then. They had to walk or ride horse and buggy.
- D: So they mostly went to shows?
- B: They went to shows and church.
- D: Did you ah, ever hear of Hamboning?
- B: Hamboning?
- D: It is some kind of musical thing.
- B: Naw.
- D: Okay, do you remember any of the . . . Oh, I'm sorry. What are your recollections about the Depression?
- B: I wasn't in it. That's bad. Everybody was out of work and didn't have any work. People lost their home, didn't have any food, didn't have any clothes to wear. They got this WIA, I believe. Well, it was the WIA or the PWA, both of them going. Then they put the people to work, times began to pick up. I got a paper about Roosevelt, if I knew exactly where I could put my hands on it, you could see it.
- D: Were you ever out of work?
- B: No. I worked right on through.
- D: What about your family?

- B: Well, my daddy was too old to work then. I was taking care of them. We had a home over there on . . .
- D: You had moved from Porter Street?
- B: Yea, oh yea, we moved from there. My daddy had to sell his store on account he kept that flu.
- D: Uh.
- B: It just got him where he couldn't do anything.
- D: Uh.
- B: So, his brother was a doctor and he told him to sell his store and get out. So he got out right there. He had to sell. Then I went on to work, my sister went to work, and we had this home out there close to Industrial Drive - Industrial area now. We did that, and we made out pretty good.
- D: Your father was a farmer too?
- B: Druggist.
- D: I see. What kind of work did your sister do?
- B: She worked at ah, use to be ah, McNair Ice Cream Place.
- D: Uh, uh.
- B: She worked there awhile, and she went into Real Estate business.
- D: Okay, do you remember the soup lines or people being in soup lines.
- B: Oh, yes. Back at President there they had a place in the store where they would feed the people, and I never saw so many people back there in all my life---that lot was full. People wanting something to eat.
- D: Uh.
- B: My sister went to work for the WPA, naw . . . PWA. Boy! Times were rough then.
- D: When did it start to let up--when did you know it was getting better?
- B: Well, it was just gradual. My daddy died in thirty-seven. It was ah, beginning to get better before then. Things were beginning to kind of level off after Roosevelt went in office.

They established these projects for people to get out and work. When this gave them money, well then things begin to pick.

D: Uh.

B: 'Cause, he's senior citizen.

D: Uh.

B: 'Course, I ought not to be saying that, but going down, honey . . . Boy, I tell you it burn me up.

D: What about the music of the twenties, thirties, and the forties? Do you remember the big bands?

B: They didn't have this rock-and-roll.

D: Uh.

B: I think Elvis Presley--the one that started that off.

D: What kinds of music did you-all have?

B: Well, we had the . . . TV's weren't on. Before the radio came, we had record players. You had to crank with the crank. We'd play that. When TV came in, not TV, but the radio, we got the radio and then the TV in. Back there, we just had the old piano. That's the old piano now. (Demonstrating) My grand-daddy had it.

D: Oh, really!

B: That thing is o-l-d.

D: Can you play?

B: Well, I just play a little bit. My mother did. It too much isn't it.

D: Uh.

B: We had ah, an old record player. We use to call it graph-o-phone. Then we had the electric kind you know, where you didn't have to wind it up. It had a motor. Then we got this sort of radio and then the TV come.

D: Okay, what are your recollections about World War II?

B: Let me see. That was when everybody was fighting wasn't it?

Japan and all of them. Well, I remember when it ended. I remember when ah, Pearl Harbor was bombed. It was on a Sunday, I believe near seven o'clock. November, I believe it was. I remember when that was bombed. Everybody was upset and the air base was out there. And the generals shipped out alot of soldiers that evening and loaded them up on the trains and took them out. When it ended, I was visiting with a friend of mine in Pennsylvania. I have never in all my life seen such going on.

D: Oh?

B: The toilet paper flying out the windows from the seven and eight stories way up and come way on down. Couldn't see hardly nothing for the paper in the air. I mean they really celebrated. When they came home, they had street dances in Pittsburg. They had the streets all blocked off. The buses had to go around the other way.

D: Really!

B: Detour, oh boy! We really celebrated. This friend of mine, she worked at the factory there sent word for us to come on to where her husband were working. So, her daughter and us all heard and got on the bus and went. We couldn't get the car so we got on the bus and went. She met us at her husband's work. As we went to get on the bus, and somebody threw paper or something on the bus, ah, they thought . . . I had my little nephew with me. He was nine years old. And then this bus driver thought he did it. And . . . said, "All shut up, don't you know the War had ended"? Now you know. "Be happy don't you know the War has ended"?

D: Okay, we need to go back again. What about the state fairs here in Jackson? Do you remember the State Fair?

B: Yea, I remember. We use to go. We use to have horse racing down there, but I reckon they cut that out along time ago.

We use to go down there at night and see all the shows, and they have ah, the wheel where you take a chance and you win things. I remember winning a bowlful of fruit and grocery and things. I was the proudest thing when they handed me that bowl of stuff for dinner. Well, I guess they have a good fair now, but it seem to me like it was a better fair than they have now. I guess when you get older you just get tired of it.

D: What kind of things did they have at the fairs back then?

B: Well, they had the side shows. They had the grand stand, and they had exhibits.

Practically what they have now. They had those wheels that you take chances on. They had horse racing. It's been along time since we had horse racing. They had all kinds of exhibits, you know, agricultural, neddle work, and stuff like that.

D: Did you ever do any neddle work?

B: Yea. Well, I did some crocheting. I made all that stuff up there on the wall. (Demonstrating)

D: Oh, that is beautiful.

B: I put a piece in the fair, and I won second place when I was a kid.

D: Really?

B: I was about seventeen years old. I had to go in with the grown people too, and I won second prize and thought that was pretty good. I made that on that table over there. (Pointing)

D: Uh.

B: . . . (Interruption)

D: Okay, let me ask you about Farish Street. What do you remember about that area?

B: Well, it hadn't changed much. There use to be . . . Now in that first block between Capitol and I believe Amite, there use to be a hamburger place in there called, Corney Island Hamburger. I mean to tell you, they made those hamburgers. They couldn't make them fast enough for the people. Well, that was when they were beginning to come out. If you didn't have a Corney Island Hamburger, you just didn't have a hamburger.

D: Do you remember people down there playing banjoes on the corners and selling things?

B: There on the corner of Mill and Capitol . . . Lets see. I had a picutre of Capitol Street. So, the McIntire Drug Store was right there where Edward Hotel is. It was outside. I guess they can close it in the wintertime. I don't know. And the tracks was down on the ground. And the ah, street cars . . . They had the trolley cars then. You had to stand and wait for the trains to go by. The people would be later for work. A lot of people got killed on those crossings like that too.

D: Oh, really?

B: They sure did.

D: Uh.

B: Down here on Porter Street and ah, Gallatin Crossings, my sister and mother saw ah, I believe it was, seven men get killed there by that ten o'clock train, Panama Limited coming through. I mean they said that their bodies were scattered all up and down that track. That was before they put it up, but since they put it up, they hadn't had no trouble with the crossing.

D: Who were some of the leading businessmen in town during the early days?

B: Ah, R. H. Green was one. He was the one that started this big Jitney Jungle, but it was McCarter Homes Store before it started. And of course, now Walter Scott, Taylor, and Headerman. I don't know. There's a Taylor use to be at the old Merchants Bank Building up there on the corners of State and Capitol.

D: Uh.

B: . . . (Baby crying)

D: Okay, do you remember any Black businessmen on Farish Street?

B: Naw.

D: What are your recollections about what went on during the early fifties, and sixties on Capitol Street.

B: I don't know so much has gone on on there. The street cars was done back then. I don't know what year that was. I don't know what year that the First Baptist Church was towed down and moved.

D: Where was it?

B: It was on the corner of President and Capitol. They moved alot of the churches around. That where Oldham Eye Place is now, I believe it was a Christian church use to be there. I believe that's the one. They moved it on North State. Then, they moved that ah, Baptist Office.

D: The Baptist Office, that was on Capitol Street?

B: Naw, it was on the end of Bailey Avenue where the Mall is now. They moved it out on (Jack Center?) Road. And the old . . . They moved that out to Whitfield. I remember we use to go out there on Sunday evening. We would sit out there underneath those trees on those benches

That was a pretty place.

D: That was downtown?

B: Well, that was on North State Street.

D: Why did you-all go out there?

B: Just to ride around. That was the end of the line right there, so we had to turn that car around and come back to town.

D: Miss Barnes, when you were growing up and even in your earlier adult life, did you have many contacts with the blacks in the community?

B: Yea. See, my daddy had a drug store. They use to come in there to trade there. Then my mother use to have them help her during the winter. Ah, washing and ironing I remember that colored woman would . . . (Interruption) She use to bring her kids . . . Let's see. She had two daughters. She use to bring them up there, and we use to play together. We'd have a good time. I don't know what her last name was, but Adline was the mother, and Annie and . . . were the childrens. She wouldn't come unless, you know, she had the girls come with her. We got out there in the backyard; we had a big old backyard, and we just had a good time.

When I was working up there at (McKroger?), I hadn't seen them in a long time. Annie come in there one day said, "I know you." I looked at her and I said, "You do"? She said, "You Miss Barnes." I said, "Yea." She said, "Do you remember me"? I said, "I don't believe I do." And she told me, and I said, "My Lord where is your mama"? She said, "Honey she's dead." Adline died. Mama thought alot of her.

D: Uh.

B: And, I said, "Didn't you have a sister named Cohee - something like that"? And she said, "Yes." I said, "Where is she"? She said, "She is here, I'll bring her here to see you." So she did. She brought her in there to see me. She didn't recognize me, and I didn't recognize her. We just out grew one another. She use to come in there all the time. I'd pick at her and she'd pick at me.

D: I see. Okay, Miss Barnes, when you look back what was the best days you have had?

B: They were all good. They was all good, 'cause we was put loose and fancy free. At least, we thought we were. I don't know, I don't say that anyone was any danger than the other. 'Cause when children, children, children, use to gather over in our yard at night or in the day time, it was no grown person there. We just played; we had the best time.

D: Uh.

B: Now, we had a big front yard. We'd play ball and play games at night under the street light. We'd play hide-n-seek.

D: I see.

B: Kids wasn't like it is now, you can't get out and do nothing now.

D: I see. Well, thank you very much for allowing me to conduct this interview with you.

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