

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, Easter Howard 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.

Easter Solomon Howard MC
Interviewee (Signature)

Dec 15, 1982
Date

April 1, 1915
Date of Birth

OH 82.06
Oral History Number Assigned

INTERVIEWEE: Mrs. Esther (George) Solomon Howard
INTERVIEWER: Dr. Alferdteen Harrison
DATE: December 15, 1982

Harrison: ~~And I'm visiting with Mrs. Esther Howard. This Nursing Home~~
~~is what's the name of it? What is the name of this~~
~~nursing home?~~

Howard: Inglewood Manor.

Harrison: Inglewood Manor Nursing Home.

Howard: On Chadwick Drive.

Harrison: Chadwick Drive, here in Jackson, Mississippi. I am interviewing her as a part of the NEH Grant, that was received by the YWCA, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Jackson State University. My name is Alferdteen Harrison, and I need you, Mrs. Howard, to tell me something about yourself, for example, when were you born and that kind of thing.

Howard: Alright. I was born April 1, 1915, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Harrison: Are . . .

Howard: At 119 West Church Street.

Harrison: West Church Street?

Howard: That's where I grew up.

Harrison: So, you were born in the ~~Historic~~ ^{Historic} Farish Street District.

Howard: Yes, sure was.

Harrison: What are some of your earliest recollections of your home?

Howard: ^{Earliest} recollections? Well, it was good and wholesome, like a little girl would like, you know, going to school everyday, and lots of friends, playmates and things like that. Oh, nothing fancy, you know, of course, because my mother and father were not, they didn't have a lot of money. They were in between people, like that. My father met this lady that owns all of this property between where we lived on Church and right behind us on Oakley Street, in the same block she owned that property also where Mrs. Minnie Foster use to live. She was a member of Central Church, nobody here, I don't think, ever knew her. I grew up around her, she owned that property and I use to collect the rent and my father was in charge of collecting the rent there. When I got to be between eight and ten years old I collected the rent. We had several pieces of rental property on Houston Street, which was called Houston

- Howard: Alley that runs right in between our house there on Church Street, which was torn down, not to long ago.
- Harrison: Now, you're talking about on Church Street between Farish and Mill?
- Howard: Mill.
- Harrison: Okay, so that's right next to Farish Street Baptist Church, I know where that is.
- Howard: I sold some of that property to the church. After living there for so long, I didn't feel that I wanted to dispose of that property except to someone that I thought would be in a position to do with as I thought ^{or maybe} ^{without} the church would do with it. I asked them first if they wanted it and they did say that they would like to have it, and this pleased me most because one of their members had asked me to sell it anyway. This man, I think, I don't know, was a black smith at that time, he didn't live in this area, I think, he lived in the Southern part of Jackson. I lived here until I was about seventeen, ^W when I got to be about seventeen I got a little restless about things and people. Can you cut that off for a minute and let me ask you a question? I stayed away from here for seventeen years.
- Harrison: Do you know approximately what year that was? You were born in 1915?
- Howard: Yes. I left here in ^{December 18, 1932} ~~1932~~. In December, I never shall forget that day, ~~December 18, 1932~~.
- Harrison: That was during the depression, so times were bad.
- Howard: I came back here in 1949, when my sister graduated from Southern University.
- Background: That is the year I got married in 1949.
- Howard: Ruth Solomon Turner graduated from Southern University and I came home for a visit.
- Harrison: Is that Southern University in Baton Rouge?
- Howard: Yes. That is why I came back. I didn't come back to stay. That young man up there talked me into staying one week. Okay, I stayed one week, more dates, you know. I was having fun anyway. Okay, I stayed two weeks then I stayed three weeks and I think the third, I think he had something planned. I didn't know what that was . . . I just had fun and stayed. So, he said, ^{the} young lady
- Harrison: That is you engagement ring . . . ?

Howard: Will you marry me. Yes sir, I will marry you.

Harrison: Now, when you left where did you go?

Howard: St. Louis

Harrison: Did you work while you were there?

Howard: Yes,

Harrison: What kind of work did you do?

Howard: Factory.

Harrison: Have you regretted coming back to Mississippi and marrying Mr. Howard?

Howard: No, I have had a happy life.

Harrison: What is your husband's first name?

Howard: George

Harrison: George Howard

Howard: I never learn^d to call him George.

Harrison: What did you call him?

Howard: Howard, I never called him anything else but Howard.

Harrison: I want to go back a bit in your earlier childhood. You have given us a brief summary -- how old were you when you first ^{went} to school?

Howard: I have never given it much of a thought, you know that.

Harrison: Probably six years old?

Howard: Oh, I am sure,

Background: Maybe five.

Harrison: Do you remember the first day you went to school?

Howard: Oh, yes.

Harrison: What was it like?

Howard: Fun. You could get a whole lot of strange things at the store that other people couldn't get.

Harrison: Like what?

Howard: Funny envelope, let^s see, pickle with a pepper mint candy in it.

[REDACTED]

Harrison: What was a sardine loaf like?

Howard: Oh, they were delicious with onions cut up on ^{them} there. That wasn't, I think, but ten or fifteen cents at Mrs. Hodges' store. I never will forget that. Did you ever know her?

Harrison: Probably,

Howard: You know what, she had the white places on her face. She was quite a lady, her and her husband. You didn't remember her? You have to. Didn't many people not remember her.

Harrison: The sardine loaf, that is what I want to find out about. You had onions and sardine in a loaf of bread?

Howard: Yes, a loaf of bread. They didn't cost but a nickle.

Harrison: So, you put the sardines, onion and what else?

Howard: She did it.

Harrison: We might want to do that sometimes. I am trying to figure out how you made the sardine loaf.

Howard: Boy, that was good. I don't know how she did that, but that was the best thing I have ever witness.

Harrison: So, your first day of school you got those goodies to eat.

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: What school was this?

Howard: Smith Robertson.

Harrison: So, you walked from your home on Church Street. Which way would you go to school?

Howard: Come right down Church Street right up to Bloom Street and turn on Bloom Street right straight into the school yard and hop up and put a few balls in the thing before you go into the school.

Harrison: You had a basketball?

Howard: Sure.

Harrison: Is there anything else you remember about that first day of school?

Howard: Yes, I remember meeting some new children out there that I hadn't seen before. I thought, well ge whiz, this is going to be a beautiful day. I hadn't seen a whole lot of guys and girls I hadn't seen before and it was going to be nice to go. I have always like meeting new people from that day to until this one right here. I still like people.

Harrison: Do you know who your first teacher was?

Howard: One of them was Mrs. Davenport.

Harrison: Do you know ~~what~~ her first name?

Howard: No

Harrison: Mrs. Davenport was your first grade teacher. ?

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: What stands out in your mind about Mrs. Davenport. ?

Howard: She was just so good and sweet. She was just such a good sweet teacher and always was.

Harrison: Could you describe her for me?

Howard: Old fashion and very strict. If she told you something, she meant it. She believed in little girls being neat. If she saw something out of place she would fix it for you. She would find out if you had a comb. It was nice for you to have one. She believed in you having one. If your hair needed it she would give it a good little swiss up or swiss down which ever one it needed. The other one was Mrs. Betty C. Marino. She was quite a character.

Harrison: Well, tell me about her.

Howard: Well, she was rough but nice. They would whip you if you needed it. They did not push you around like I have heard people say, but they didn't push you around. Now, Mrs. Mary Jones, she was a doll. She looked mean and sounded mean, but she wasn't. All she wanted was her lessons. If you got it you were her girl or her boy. All she wanted was her lesson and I got it.

Harrison: What kind of grades did you make?

Howard: Good ones. You had better bring good ones or daddy would half kill you. He said that you don't go up there -- we don't buy you good clothes and stuff for you to go up there and learn nothing. He said, "Going block headed." He told me one day, "You know one thing, the empty wagon rattles the loudest." I found out what that meant. That meant that my head was empty if I didn't make up nothing but a lot of noise. I had to have something in it to let him ~~no~~ know about and then I could make up some racket by having fun. That is what he meant and he meant it.

Harrison: How far did you go in school at Smith Robertson? What grade were you in when you left?

Howard: Whatever grade they had.

Harrison: They must have gone to the eight grade, probably.

Howard: Yes,

Harrison: Where did you go after that?

Howard: Lanier.

Harrison: Since we are talking about the Farish Street area, do you remember your school closing when you finished at Smith Robertson what kind of activity did you have, what was it like?

Howard: At Smith Robertson?

Harrison: Yes.

Howard: Activities?

Harrison: The school closing or graduation. Did you call it school closing or graduation?

Howard: School closing. You mean what kind of clothes did you have?

Harrison: What kind of clothes did you wear, did you have a program, did you say a speech, or march and get your diploma or what was it like?

Howard: Yes, you had a little dress for that. I remember that. I had a little white, let me see what kind of material was called, crepe yeap, sure did.

Harrison: Did you have a program that night and what was it like?

Howard: Yes. You know, you would sit up on the stage and you would say a speech or something, whatever they had planned for you to say and you would march down there and get it and then march back up there until everybody marched down together.

Harrison: They would call your name and you would go and say your speech?

Howard: Yes. I would hate for them to call me the name they gave me.

Harrison: What was that?

Howard: Esther Mae Solomon.

Harrison: Esther Mae or Esther Mae Solomon?

Howard: Right.

Harrison: Mae is not a part of your name? Oh, Mae is a part of your name and you didn't like it?

Howard: I didn't like Mae and never did.

Harrison: What church did you go to?

Howard: Central, I was raised in Central.

Harrison: What about some of your church activities as a child growing up while you were at Smith Robertson, what did you do at church?

Howard: Everything.

Harrison: Like what?

Howard: Like teach Sunday School. Claire and I use to teach class.

Harrison: You were teenagers together?

Howard: Yes. We use to raid the cookie jar together.

Harrison: Oh, in your home?

Howard: No, in her home, that was closer and we could get back to church quicker.

Harrison: Did she go to Smith Robertson too?

Howard: Yes, part of the time.

Harrison: Were you all classmate?

Howard: Over there?

Harrison: At Smith Robertson you were classmate?

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: Tell me about the most outstanding thing that occurred to you as a child when you went to church? You know, during the year or during all those years when you were a child.

Howard: To be selected to do anything important. It was just really important to be selected to do anything in the church. I always wanted to be a part of a church program. I thought to be a part of anything that Jesus wanted you to do was most important. That has always been a part of my life. I have always wanted to know Jesus. I hope and trust I have gotten to know him like I should. I am still trying to know him better, that is my goal.

Harrison: Do you remeber the William Johnson Center?

Howard: William Johnson?

Harrison: That may have been a part of Central Church.

Howard: Next door?

Harrison: I believe it was there one time.

Howard: Yes, I believe I do.

Harrison: Did you ever attend it?

Howard: No, I don't remember.

Harrison: I understand it later became the Bethlehem Center.

Howard: That might have been the time that part of my family was sick in Chicago and I might have been in and out, because if my mother couldn't go, then I did. Anything that she couldn't do, then I would do. She wouldn't fly and I would.

Harrison: Did you ever attend the YWCA?

Howard: All the time.

Harrison: What was it like?

Howard: That was important to me too. Everything in it was important to me, all of it. That is something else I loved, the YWCA. I didn't stop working in it until I got sick where I couldn't do anything in it.

Harrison: What are some of the things that was in it that you enjoyed doing?

Howard: All of it. I was on the Board. I was on any project that ^{they} that had whether it was a membership drive, I would take it over or whatever.

Harrison: What about your activities in the "Y" as a young girl?

Howard: I don't think I got started when I was a young girl in the "Y" because we couldn't convince my father that I should. So, I had to wait because we couldn't make him believe that at all. He was old fashion where that was concern.

Harrison: What do you mean old fashion?

Howard: Well, he didn't think you should. He said that wasn't necessary and that church was the only thing I needed to attend. My mother agreed with me, but she couldn't go against what he said, you know, that was his rule. I had to go along with that. Then I had to wait until I was grown until I could afford my own money to do the things I wanted to do. So, I

Howard: just said whenever I got grown I would do it and I did.

Harrison: Beyond going to Smith Robertson School and Central Church and the YWCA once you were grown, what other kind of organization did you participate in when you lived down there?

Howard: Almost any kind, March of Dimes or whatever I thought people were doing good in.

Harrison: Do you remember any of the festivals or carnivals they use to have on the corner of Mill and Hamilton? Carnivals, I guess were Rabbit Foot shows, not festival but Rabbit Foot Shows. What did you remember about them?

Howard: Nothing to much, only I couldn't go because I didn't have any money to go with.

Harrison: Did it seem like a lot of your friends were going?

Howard: Yes, they went, but my mother didn't like those either.

Harrison: What did she have against them?

Howard: Well, she said that they sorta' of beat you out of your money anyway and that wasn't a good place to go.

Harrison: Do you know what she was talking about when she said they beat you out of your money?

Howard: Yes, she explained it. She said that they had games and all kinds of things that weren't any good and especially wasn't good for a girl.

Harrison: Do you ever remember visiting the Crystal Palace?

Howard: Yes,

Harrison: What was it like?

Howard: I don't remember.

Harrison: Why would you go there?

Howard: With somebody, I think. With a couple of girls from church. Like when you get out of church and you want to go by for something, and somebody would say let's go this place and you would go with them, you know.

Harrison: Would it be open on Sunday afternoon?

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: You know, sometimes now we have society and those of us who are just common laborers and all, when you were growing up in the Farish Street area who were those people living there that you would call the high society or upper class or you could call

- Harrison: the rich folks is another word for it?
- Howard: It wasn't to many upper class living down there. Some people say Henrietta was, you know, had a lot of money.
- Harrison: Henrietta who?
- Howard: Henrietta Stevenson.
- Harrison: Who were some of the people that you remember as a child that you said, "Oh, when I grow up I am going to be like this lady or this family, and this is what my house is going to look like?"
- Howard: Oh, I tell you who I always wanted to be like as far as a lady, a lady who use to live on Oakley Street and her mother owned that house and that restaurant on the corner of Oakley and Mill, Mrs. King. Did you know her? She was, I never did know what nationality she was. I guess they both were black, I don't know, but they looked white, I don't know whether they were black or not. But anyway her daughter taught school, she probably was black. I think she taught school in one of the black schools. But any how I use to admire her wardrobe and every child--coming up fourteen and fifteen years old I had access to her things because she use to get me to do little things for her, like dust, in her room and I would look in her chest and it was pretty. I thought these are beautiful and if I had anything that they were going to be like these. I can't nearly buy things like them.
- Harrison: Were there other people, like outstanding people in your church?
- Howard: Yes, like Clarice's mother.
- Harrison: Who was she?
- Howard: Clarice Collins,
- Harrison: Um hum,
- Howard: There were a couple of other ladies there. They were nice ladies.
- Harrison: When you got ready to go to the grocery store what did you do and where would you shop?
- Howard: Krogers.
- Harrison: Now when you were a little girl and when your mother would say go to the store, where would you go?
- Howard: Well, my mother would tell you to go some place near by if she sent you. If she sent me she wouldn't want me to gone very long and that would be up there on Farish Street to Mr. Stevenson.
- Harrison: He had a grocery store?
- Howard: Yes.

Harrison: What was the name of it?

Howard: Steven's Grocery Store?

Harrison: Where was it?

Howard: Well, he didn't have a lot of things in it, but he had mostly stable things like a little sugar, or a little this or a little of that. You could buy a quarter worth of this and sometime smaller amounts that you were really going to buy at the weekend.

Harrison: Where was the Payne's Grocery Store?

Howard: Up on Farish Street near Monument Street.

Harrison: What corner was it on?

Howard: It was just west of where the garage is now.

Harrison: It was on the same side where the garage is?

Howard: Right, because Mr. McNismis had a cafe there too.

Harrison: So, it was then between McNismis' cafe-- McNismis is between the garage and Payne's Grocery Store.

break in tape (another conversation)

Harrison: Well, you were telling us about the grocery stores that you went to. You went to Payne Grocery Store and Steven's Grocery Store if you had to go during the week, otherwise, you would probably go to Kroger's on the weekend outside of the neighborhood itself. Did you ever go to ^{any} of the dances down there?

Howard: No

Harrison: What about department stores, did you ever shop on Farish Street for clothing?

(End of Side I)

Harrison: On Farish Street, where was it located?

Howard: Between Amite and Capitol. That's about right isn't it Mattie?

Harrison: Between Amite and Capitol.

Howard: Cause we were way down, you know. They had quite some nice things, otherwise, you know, I would go to McRae's where we had an account, you know.

Harrison: McRae's downtown?

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: That's before they closed down. I am talking about the McRae's Store that just closed downtown.

break in tape----another conversation.

Harrison: What about doctors and lawyers, did you ever have cause to go to a doctor down there, who was your doctor?

Howard: Who was my doctor?

Harrison: Were you sick very much?

Howard: Yes, sure.

Harrison: Did you ever go to the hospital down there or one of the clinics they had down there?

Howard: On Farish Street?

Harrison: Yes mam.

Howard: No mam.

Harrison: Where would you go ?

Howard: To the hospital.

Harrison: Which hospital was this?

Howard: Baptist.

Harrison: Baptist Hospital?

Howard: St. Dominic mostly, then Baptist

Harrison: Now as a child which one did you go to? When you were very small, let's say before you left here in '17, you weren't.

Howard: No, I didn't get sick then.

Harrison: What about dental care.

Howard: I went out, where is that place on State Street and Medical Arts Building? That's where I went to a doctor or dentist.

Harrison: As a smaller child, did you go down there?

Howard: No.

Harrison: Did you know any of the dentists or physicians who had an office on Farish Street?

Howard: No, I sure didn't.

Harrison: You know, that place up there now where they have the Federal Building, do you any of those person who had offices down there?

Howard: No.

Background: You know that Dr. Howard is up there and . . .

Howard: . . . and Dr. Britten . . .

Background: Dr. Christain and Dr. Smith had the clinic way down there on Farish Street.

Howard: Things have been moved around so until you can't get things together. In fact, I have moved around as far as that is concerned. I have moved out of my home and out here.

Background: Dr. Christain and Dr. Britten had a hospital on the far end of Farish Street near Davis Street. Dr. Smith has one where Dotty Cab is now.

Howard: Dr. Britten has his office right now, hadn't he?

Harrison: Yes, he is still there. Do you want to tell me about some of the Black doctors who were back there a long time ago like Dr. Christain. Do you remember seeing him?

Howard: I saw him lots of time, but I never gone to him.

Harrison: What kind of man was he?

Howard: He was a nice man as far as I know. I talk with him. I have gone to Dr. Britten and I carried my mother to him too.

Harrison: Did you ever hear anything about a black bank?

Howard: Yes

Harrison: What did you hear about it?

Howard: A black bank?

Harrison: Yes, the bank that use to be on Farish Street?

Howard: What is the name of it?

Harrison: It was some type of Saving and Loans on the corner of Farish and Capitol, I understand. It may have been before you were born.

Howard: This one that I know about is on Lynch. The reason I know about it--not the reason I know about, I know about it because

Howard: we asked questions about it. I think, Howard and I went out there and talked with a couple of people in charge. Then all of a sudden I found out that I had become heir to some money that someone had left to me in that bank. I didn't know who it was, but God bless that soul whoever did that. They care about me whoever it was.

Harrison: I want to go back and talk about Howard.

Howard: That is my favorite subject.

Harrison: Tell me about him?

Howard: Howard was born in Plain, Mississippi. I think his birthday was July 21, 1912. The way he tells it he had a very poor parents and very little education. He was self-educated as I do know. He was very quick to learn and I do know that to be a fact. He was a easy man to learn. If he wanted to do it you can bet your bottom dollar you found him doing it. So, he set out to be the best maitreD' in the whole world and I can believe that too because everybody you meet tell me that.

Harrison: Was he a good cook?

Howard: Well, yes he was.

Harrison: Did he cook at home any?

Howard: Oh yes. I got sick here and he cooked all the time. Some things he could out cook me in. He could keep house, I didn't worry about nothing. He was a very good man.

Harrison: What was his frist job he told you about? Do you remember him telling you about his first job, how he got started?

Howard: Yes, he got started with a man named Mr. Henry Roosevelt and that is all I know about it.

Harrison: You don't know where they were?

Howard: They were living--he was living here in Jackson out there at Plain. He did work at his home for his family. This was the time that all people didn't everybody was trying to make a little money. People would work sometimes \$3.00 or \$4.00 a week. I heard him say that sometime he only collected \$3.00 or \$4.00 a week. I said you mean--could you live on it. He said yea and live good because people don't live like they lived in now days. That was his story. He said that those people were so good to him it just wasn't funny. They gave him so much that he didn't have to worry nothing else.

- Harrison: When you met him where was he working?
- Howard: He was working at the King Edward Hotel.
- Harrison: What was his position then?
- Howard: He was Captain Waiter just a little bit under the maitreD'. He had not yet reached that height, but that is what he wanted after I met him.
- Harrison: They wrote all of that up in the book that he has in his honor. Have you all had any children?
- Howard: No, we couldn't have any. I have always wanted one. I always thought we could adopt, but he would not hear of it. He said no that he didn't want any adopted children. He said that he adopted me.
- Harrison: We are making an effort to establish a museum at the Smith Robertson School, how would you like to appear in the history of Smith Robertson School if we were writing a biography of Mrs. Esther Howard. What would you want to have said about you?
- Howard: I don't have the slightest idea, but just the nicest thing you could say.
- Harrison: Give me a little outline?
- Howard: Go ahead and explain what you were going to say.
- Harrison: The major things you were about. How would you describe Esther Howard, a student, at Smith Robertson, lets say in 1920.
- Howard: Oh, I wonder how do I sum her up. I am going to dig down and see what can I come up with about Esther. I don't know exactly how you want me to put that.
- Harrison: Any way you want to.
- Howard: Married, I think it would help if someone would tell you.
- Harrison: I want to know what you think of you.
- Howard: Naturally, I think, Esther is just find.
- Harrison: What have you contributed to life?
- Howard: I don't know about that, darling. Well, the only thing I have contributed to life is this, I have always tried to give as much of myself to humanities as I could and I am still trying to do that. That is what I am doing here. I am trying my best to give people what I think life is all about.

Howard: I think that your living ought to be clean and that you ought to have Jesus because if you don't you don't have anything. I don't see how you can live without him, I know that I couldn't. I tried that one time and that won't work. That is what is all about in my life, to live for Him and with Him and try to walk with Him and to try steer young people in that direction regardless of what it takes. They come my way every day. I come in contact with some many young people like student nurses and any young people that come out to see me and we talk all day every day. That is what I am all about. I like to do anything and everything I can to help humanity. I don't care what that is, if I can do it I am willing.

Harrison: How would your husband have characterized you? What would he say about you?

Howard: The greatest lady that ever lived. That is what he would have said, but I wouldn't say it exactly like that but he would have.

Harrison: How would you have characterized him?

Howard: I know that he is the greatest man in my life.

Harrison: What makes him a great man, I didn't know him?

Howard: What makes him a great man? He helped anybody and everybody. He reached down for anybody.

Harrison: Can you think of some examples of people that he has helped?

Howard: Any young man that he run across he would give him a job and he would try to see to him doing it right.

Harrison: If I wanted to go find one of these person that he has helped how would I find these persons? Who would be one of these persons?

Howard: Well, you could find the man that helps me right now. Mr. James Seal down there at the Holiday Inn. You could find Mr. Nepolain Gentry at Bradley and you could find all his brothers.

Harrison: The Gentry brothers?

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: Like the Gentry's that is Principal at Blackburn?

Howard: That is who I am talking about.

Harrison: Blackburn Junior High School. I just wanted to make sure I had the right family.

- Howard: Those are some of the best friends we have ever had. They came up under Howard going to school and working for him and getting an education.
- Harrison: Working for him when he was at what hotel?
- Howard: King Edward or Heildberg wherever he was that where they were. They would be out to the house too.
- Harrison: Was he active in the church?
- Howard: Yes. I tell you somebody else too. You remember the Sampson boys? One of them is out to Jackson State in Music, J. J. Sampson.
- Harrison: I think so.
- Howard: Don't you know J. J. Sampson?
- Harrison: I think so.
- Howard: I have to take a while, but I could think of lots and lots of boys. And to think about it, Howard got his boys from Jackson State. He and Dr. People worked together.
- Harrison: So, Dr. People would be a friend of his?
- Howard: Yes. What is this other man who is out there, Mr. Lee.
- Harrison: Lee Williams use to be there.
- Howard: I think Mr. Williams is from Howard's home, isn't he? I beleive he is. He was there when they had his day.
- Harrison: When they had what?
- Howard: George Howard Day.
- Harrison: Well, Mrs. Howard is there anything else that you think we should know about you and your husband for history? What would you like to have future generations know about your self and your husband?
- Howard: Oh, Mattie can you think of something? I can't think of anything right now.
- Harrison: Your husband, Howard was a member of Mt. Helm Church? Do you know what position he held in the church, if any?
- Howard: I don't think he held any position. With his type of work he couldn't have any certain time to be off. He worked late hours and he didn't know what time he was going to be off and so he couldn't give anybody a certain time he could be there so he couldn't do that. He was always willing to do whatever he could when it came to paying or sending somebody to do a job they wanted done or

Howard: whatever. In that way he did whatever he could.

Harrison: One final statement about how you want us to remember you and Howard.

Howard: I want you to remember him as a very devoted husband because he was. He was a very devoted husband to me. He always had been up until the very last moment. Even when he was hospitalized, I remember him. They let him come home and they came to take him back to the hospital, but he didn't want to go back. He had to go back because he was really sick. He couldn't realize going back. He came home to cook some things that I really liked so well. He said that all he needed is to get home and fix some things I like so well. If he could gain that weight back things would be just find and I told him that would be good if he could. I said that would be good if he could eat some of the food that he had fixed. He said, "Yea, and gave a big smile." He regret going back.

Harrison: When did he pass?

Howard: March 28, 1981

Harrison: Well, I want to thank you for this interview and I hope that you don't mind us using this for scholarly purposes. But I need to ask you if you don't mind us using it at Jackson State, Smith Robertson, and Mississippi Department Od Archives and History for other scholars can use it to know about your life and your husband.

Howard: No, I am glad that it can be of service of any kind to you.

Harrison: Now, I guess we need to talk about the information that is in the scrapbook here. It seems like it is very complete about the nature of his life and it answers a lot of specific I see this all printed up with him looking all handsome and all. Is it your wish to leave this to the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center so we could have it there as a display? How did you get this? Did you put this book together here the one that said George Howard Day, February 24, I guess this is 1976?

Howard: No, his friend and co-workers did it at Lefleur's. They did it all while he was working there.

Harrison: Was this presented to him upon his retirement or what?

Howard: No, he wasn't retired. He was semi-retired.

Harrison: Was he sick at the time they did this?

Howard: Yes.

Harrison: Did he have a long illness? This is 1976--while I have some

Harrison: forms for the Smith Robertson Museum. Is this something we can take and have there for--the exhibit is for April of 1983.

END OF INTERVIEW