

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWER AGREEMENT

I, CURTIS JEROME FRANKS, in view of the historical and scholarly value of the information contained in the interview with NANCY CABILL knowingly and voluntarily permit Jackson State University, Jackson the full use of this information, and hereby grant and assign to Jackson State University, Jackson all rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now known, recognized or contemplated.

Curtis Jerome Franks  
Interviewer (signature)

# 2  
Interview Number

July 28, 1977  
Date

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Jackson State University  
Oral History Program

Friday

Oral History Study of: The Growth  
IN Clinton, Mississippi

Mrs. Nancy Cahill

Interviewed by

Mr. Curtis J. Franks

on

May 27, 1977

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWER AGREEMENT

I, CURTIS JEROME FRANKS, in view of the historical and scholarly value of the information contained in the interview with NANCY CAHILL knowingly and voluntarily permit Jackson State University, Jackson the full use of this information, and hereby grant and assign to Jackson State University, Jackson all rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now known, recognized or contemplated.

Curtis Jerome Franks  
Interviewer (signature)

Number 1  
Interview Number

July 28, 1977  
Date

JACKSON STATE COLLEGE

Jackson, Mississippi

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE AGREEMENT

You have been asked for information to be used in connection with the Oral History Program at Jackson State College; 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 College, Jackson, Mississippi. Other institutions or persons may obtain a copy. These materials may be made available for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publications, or for other related purposes.

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I, Nancy W. Cahill, have read the above and, in  
(Interviewee, please print)

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 College, 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 College, Jackson, Mississippi.

Nancy W. Cahill  
Interviewee (Signature)

7/22/77

Date

NARRATOR: Mrs. Nancy Cahill

INTERVIEWER: Curtis J. Franks

DATE: May 27, 1977

PLACE: 108 West Leake Street (West Realty Company  
Clinton, MS

SUBJECT: The Rapid Growth of Clinton and Its Impact

F: Mrs. Cahill were you born here in Clinton, Mississippi?

C: No I was born in Washington, D. C., but we bought came back here when I was six years old.

F: What about your educational background?

C: I went to high school at Clinton and finish there in 1960 and I went to Mississippi State College for women and graduated in 1964 with a teachers degree in Physical Education. And I have worked on my master's degree at Mississippi College and not completed it. I taught for five years in Tulsa, Oklahoma and three years at Sumner Hill, Sumner Hill High School in Hinds County.

F: Uh, what about your parents? Name and occupation?

C: My father's name is Gladstone E. Williams, he is an attorney and has a real estate company in Clinton. My mother's name was Nancy Neal Williams, she worked in his real estate company until she died in 1974.

F: Were your parents native Clintonians?

- C: My father was born in Fall's Church, Virginia and he came to Mississippi in 1939 and worked for the highway department, where my mother was working at that time. My mother and her family are from Hinds County and have been here since the early 1800's.
- F: Ah, do you ever recall your mother talking about the early history of Jackson, ah, I meant Clinton?
- C: My grandmother did more talking about it than my mother did. My great grandmother whose name was Charlotte Spann Neal died in 1957 at the age of 106. She had lived through the Civil War and I remember her talking about one day she was going out to get her eggs when Sherman's troops came through, they shot at her, and she still had the mini-ball that lodged in the fence next to her. Ah, she told other stories but in 1957 I wasn't of the age that I wanted to know all that kind of thing.
- F: Ah, Mrs. Cahill, ah, when were you born, if I may ask?
- C: December, 1942.
- F: So ah, in 1957 you were about fifteen years old. Did you ever recall your great, great grandmother telling you about what Clinton was like?
- C: Yes, ah there was a time, before, when Clinton was the biggest city in the State and I remember people saying that there were seven hotels here. There was a public spring that was used as a, for mudisamal purposes. The spring still flows and its been cleaned out in the last couple of years.

Most of the growth at that time was down around the railroad track and it gradually disintegrated, ah . . . and of course, its common knowledge that Clinton lost the vote to be the capitol of the State by one vote and I don't remember the date on that but it was back in the early 1800's, 1840's, I guess. And at one time we had a girl's school here in connection with Mississippi College, that was known as Hillman College and most of the buildings were still in tact when I was young I remember one November or December when one of the three story dormitories caught on fire and burnt to the ground, and you could see it from miles and miles, and miles.

F: Do you ever recall your great, great grandmother talking about the Clinton Riot of 1875?

C: No they didn't talk a whole lot about that. I had read accounts of it. I think I know where it took place at, it was out on what is called now the Vernon Road or the Sand Road. It started with a picnic, I think, that turned into a riot over something and ah, somewhere I read the history to it but I don't remember very much of it; its has been a while.

F: So ah, at one time Clinton was the largest city in the State of Mississippi, use to be.

C: At one time.

F: And the growth was centered around the railroad tracks.

C: Right.

F: Ah, well could you give me ~~some~~ of the factors that can be attributive to the rapid city of Clinton today?

C: Ah, one thing is the school system, its a separate system from the county. Ah, unfortunately the black/white ratio has been an attracting feature of that. Its probably 85 to 15, and will drop significantly when the Jackson expansion is completed. Another thing is the lower taxes in compare with the Jackson taxes. One house that we sold recently in the the real estate company, the taxes went up \$500.00 a year, it was taken into the city of Jackson. And that was a moderately priced house, it was a \$27,000.00. Ah another thing is the closeness to the Jackson facilities without having to be in the midst of city life. One other thing that is important to me and I see that we begin to lose a little of it, is that the fact everybody in Clinton has known what your children are doing and if you are not available to keep up with them somebody else usually does.

F: So here what are you saying that Clinton is a very close-knit (city) community?

C: Yes, but it is losing a little bit of that because our population has grown from 7,000 in 1970 to right at 13, 000. And the census in 1976, the summer of '76 shown us with exactly 12,100, but according to the mayor and the number of water turn ons that they have had and the building



permits, that has grown or probably grown by a hundred or a hundred and fifty every month. So that would put us a little over 13,000.

F: You mention that the black/white ratio here in Clinton is about 85% white and 15% black. So how do you think this will effect the population here in Clinton once the Jackson School System has expanded.

C: It is going to take about 1300 students out of the Clinton system. About 600 of those are black students from the Presidential Hill area. That will drop our black/white ratio to about 92% white and 8% black.

F: Historically Clinton has been known to have a very fine educational system, ah is there a vast difference between Clinton High and Sumner Hill?

C: Yes, a big difference. I think one of the reasons ah, is that early, not historically early but maybe twenty or twenty-five years ago most of the people who lived in Clinton were connected with the college. And people who have a college education, I think studies show tend more often to encourage their children to get a college education. And on top of that many of them had to work during the summer and the planting time and harvest time that this was a part of the beginning of it. At this time the county school system has lost so much tax base and so much revenue from Clinton becoming a separate school district and from Jackson's expansion, especially their recent expansion taking in Forrest Hill which has close to 3,000 students I would think. They do not have the money to finance the School

system, and consequently they are lacking in new materials, in facilities. I taught physical education at Sumner Hill, I taught soft ball with a tennis ball and a 2 X 4. The basket ball had to be pumped up at each end of the court, if we got to the other end of the court before it had to be pumped up. My Mississippi History Class just did not have enough books to go around. The economic books that we used were college level economic books and my students could not read them.

F: These these were taking place at Sumner Hill School?

C: Yes, between 1970 and 1973.

F: You stated earlier that twenty five years ago most of the people who moved here in Clinton, or resided here in Clinton were associated with Mississippi College. Is this now also the case today?

C: No, the College has approximately three hundred employees, most of those people live in Clinton and that includes faculty and staff. Ninety per cent of the people who live here now are people who live here and work in Jackson. They live here because of the school system, and because of the tax base, primarily the school system. A good many of the people who have moved in in the last years are people who have been transferred in because of their jobs. We've got a lot of people from Ohio who have moved in with the Packard Electric Company. We got people from other

places that have come in with the Deluxe Check Plant, with the American Can Company and with the Gulf State Manufactures, Gulf State Cannery that make Co-Ca Colas.

F: So are you saying that as Clinton Grows industrially, the population increases but, in order for these industries to function they are bringing people from out of state to work here?

C: Well when a big plant moves in like Packard, they have to bring some of their top people and so of their foremen with them, to train people for the assembly line and for the jobs they are going to take. Now Packard had a three month training program in connection with Hinds Junior College and apparently it worked out very well. They still use the program that Hinds developed, but they use it out in their own plant when they hire somebody. They have somebody out there who teaches them how to work the assembly line and they have special areas set apart for it.

F: Has the mayor and aldermen been successful in their attempts to have the city government and services keep pace with the booming population here in Clinton?

C: Yes, I think they have, they have had a lot of problems because when you have more than 50% growth in seven years you have a lot of things to improve and to keep up with. We do have a fine new facility that has just been added to the city hall. They publish in the paper, probably

monthly how many arrests, how many burglaries and this kind of thing they have. They have been exceptionally good about checking on commercial places, to see if the doors are locked and the windows are shut, and this kind of things. The police chief's name is Jimmy Dukes and he's about thirty seven, he is a young man. He grew up in Clinton and he has been, I understand, President of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Association or whatever its called. They send their officers for various training courses and work well with the county sheriff department and the Jackson City Police.

F: You were speaking about the police department and what are some of the other urban services rendered here in Clinton?

C: One of the things we are most proud of is our fire department and our rescue units. When I was younger Clinton did not have a fire department or a fire engine. We had volunteers that would come and turn garden hoses on, but that was about the extent of it. And a young man by the name of Dave Callahan who has lived here most of his life, pushed the mayor, who was at that time Dr. A. E. Wood into buying a fire engine. Well the fire engine came in on the train at time when trains use to stop in Clinton. And the mayor called Dave and asked him to go down and get the fire engine, so he went and helped unload it from the train and brought it up to city hall and the mayor looked at it and said 'well we don't have anywhere to put it so why don't you park in in your driveway. So it parked in Mr. Callahan's driveway and eventually the city

furnished a garage for it on some public property. Dave worked with the fire department and we have four. (INTERRUPTION)

C: Eventually the fire department grew where we now have three trucks, a rescue truck and an ambulance and we have approximately twelve full time employees and sixty volunteers. All of whom who have had training at the fire academy or either at the Program at Hinds. We have twenty who have taken the emergency medical technical course and are qualified emergency medical technicians, and do an excellent job with the rescues. They had a incident couple weeks where three of the firemen delivered a baby in the back seat of a volkswagon down at the service station. And we have not had any major fires because they are so quick to get to any call that comes in and it takes them less than three minutes.

F: What about the efficiency of the health facilities here? Is there a health clinic here in Clinton?

C: The county has a clinic that operates two or three days a week in a building in the northwest part of town which is, if we have to call an area low income, that would be the area. It is a county clinic, it is not a city funded clinic. We have five doctors in town, where maybe five years ago we had two I know the county system, the county public health system makes calls in this area and we have a business called Capitol Home Health Company; that have registered nurses and L. P. N.'s that will make

visits on invalids everyday or two times a week, or three times a week. Of course, that's a private organization and they make a profit. So its probably pretty expensive but I haven't talked to anyone about it.

F: So this organization . . . (forget the name of the organization)

C: Capital Home Health?

F: Ah, this organization Capital Home Health is a private organization?

C: Yes, its a business enterprise, so it's expensive. There is another group in town, recently organized non-profit group, the Clinton Christian Community Corporation. I think that's the way it goes that is operated on donations, and they operate a little service for people who can not afford to get to the doctor, who can't, they will take people to the doctor or take them to the clinic or the health department in Jackson. And most of the free facilities are in Jackson. This group that comes out here from the health department gives immunization and ah, they gave the flu shots when they were being given, and this type of thing. There is not much in the way of city organized services.

F: Well, what about the efficiency of the sewage system?

C: Ah, we have had four different sewage lagoons located in different quadrants of town, that have been sufficient up to this point. They are not going

to be sufficient much longer. One area of town, the Briars, which is a new sub-division, they have been required to put in a sewage treatment plant. Which will not take care of the whole city but it will take care of that section. I believe Cascade will be in that same plant. Eventually Clinton will have to go to a sewage treatment plant system, unless they can find some way create and clean up the influent faster than a sewage lagoon does. To the present time its sufficient, but that won't last much longer.

F: The sewage system here in Clinton is sufficient, are all areas within Clinton, do they have sewage?

C: No, that's one of the problems. The Northwest part of town, which includes Sand Road, Vernon Road, Neal Street, Tover, which is a primary black area has been taken into the city two years ago, maybe three. And the city has applied for grants for assistance to put sewage and improve the water lines out that way. They have applied three times (the city) and been turned down three times. They have spent . . . I've seen some of the work that they've done on it and they went through the Central Mississippi Development district getting studies made and I'm sure they are available for public information. Ah, we were turned down the last time not more than two months ago, I don't think. So that something that has to come from a bond issue or some other source. It is going to be hard to do.

F: Other than the section which is known as the Dickey Survey Area, they do not have an adequate sewage system and the majority of this area blacks reside in that area.

C: Right. They are trying to do something about it, but we have not had much help. I think the last reason that they were turned down was because they had not adopted section 8 of the Housing and Urban Development guidelines and the section 8 as I understand it "is rental assistance", if you make under a certain amount of money, and I think it's \$8,000.00 a year or maybe \$9,000.00 a year. If you rent the federal government will help you to pay your rent. It doesn't make difference what type of development you live in they will help you pay the rent and this has not been adopted. And I think this was the reason it was turned down the last time, I don't know what the other ones were but I know they have tried to comply with them and every time, the first time it was something and the second time it was something else and now the third time it's different thing completely.

F: During Clinton's period of rapid growth, what has the financial condition of the city been?

C: Ah, we have a mayor who has operated a steel erection company and he is very knowledgeable about building cost and he operates on a very tight budget and Clinton's budget has always been balanced, we have not operated in a deficit. Clinton did pass a bond issue some years ago to



build and new library, if it's not paid off now, it will be paid off in the next year or two. I don't remember what the amount was but I think it was \$160,000.00, it may be lower than that I don't know.

F: So Clinton has benefitted from its planned growth?

C: Yes, and they are being very strict. When a developer goes into develop a new subdivision they make sure that the streets and road he builds are up to par, that they won't fall apart six months after he's out. They have made them put in 8 inch and 10 inch water lines. They have made them put in sufficient sewage lines. They are very careful with the building codes and the requirements and I think that's probably one of the best ways to protect your costs in the future, to prevent the maintenance cost from out running the initial out-lay in development cost. It hasn't made some of the developers very happy and it has run some of the prices up on homes but its been very good for the city this way.

F: Well ah, Mrs. Cahill how would you characterize the growth here in Clinton over all? What I'm trying to get at is, is the growth here in Clinton really real or superficial?

C: No I think its real ah back in the early sixties Clinton's sale tax income was around \$5,000.00 a month. Our sales tax income for last month was around \$21,000. Well that's a penny out of each dollar spent in Clinton because we only get one cent out of five that goes for sales tax on the dollar,

which gives you the amount of money that comes into town. We at one time had one grocery store, couple of service stations, a post office and the college and that was about it. There was a cafe, and in the early fifties we got a dress shop, ah, another grocery store. Now Clinton has two super markets, a grocery store of a smaller size and about nine or ten little quick trips or I mean fast services. And those kinds of things don't build unless they know the growth is going to be there. We had a long range planning study done which shows that by 1990 we will have 42,500 people in Clinton. I don't know where they are going to put them but that's what the growth ratio shows.

F: Mrs. Cahill, you said that the growth here in Clinton is real and there is nothing superficial but is the growth, with the continuing growth of Clinton, How has this growth affected the black community?

C: Ah, now that's hard to say. The black community in Clinton is small. Inside the city limits it is very small, it consists mainly of the Dickey Survey Area. Clinton, one of the reasons for Clinton's growth like I said before is the school system. We have people who will move out here from Jackson because they do not want to be in what they consider a black school and a black school to them is anything over 30 per cent. Consequently, we get more white people moving into Clinton who move in for reasons of prejudice, which makes it harder to adopt things for the black community when the voters come out.

F: Mrs. Cahill could you give some other reasons why a large number of people from other states come to Clinton to live?

C: Well people who come from out-of-state look for quality education for their children and Clinton is one of these places. They also look for a good place to bring their children up, that is supposedly free from some of the pressures that children have in urban areas. Now we also have people move into Clinton from other areas in the county, particularly Jackson. We have a lot of people who move here simply because of the black/white ratio in the school and that's what I call bigot growth. Because the only reason they move out here is because of prejudice. It does not help us to do any community relations and as far as I'm concerned it does more harm than good because it transfers those attitudes to other people who are here.

F: You said that you characterize this growth as bigot growth and it doesn't help community relations. What effect do you think this will have on race relations in Clinton in the future?

C: I don't think it is going to help any. The black people that I've known growing up have been . . . well I say have been, but I don't know and I can't begin to say how they fell because I would not try to. But the relationship that I have had with people, black people, and white people in Clinton has always been one that's been . . . we have been comfortable with one another. That's probably because they have known with one

another. That's probably because they have known me since I was a baby. I have been raised by as many black people as white people. And they (blacks) don't like the attitudes that are coming in from out of town. That's not to say we don't have them here (bigots) because we do. But when you live in a community you know who feel what way, and you know who to avoid, whether it be for social reasons or for racial, religious or even economic reasons. And when you have lived in one place that long you know who you can be comfortable with and who you can't. And Clinton is changing to the point, with the new growth that it is hard to know sometimes and it makes people unsure of themselves in their relationships with other people. Needless to say, that is a part of race relations. Ah, I don't know how else to put it, I don't know how to explain it anymore. It is a hard thing to describe, it is a hard thing to conquer and people who come in with that attitude (racists) are not going to change their attitudes. I remember one of the things that I have read so much about World War II, that if you tell the big lie it is more easily accepted than the small lie, and I think that's what bigots believe; a big lie. It is easier for bigots to convert people to their ideas than it is for people to convert them to rational ideas. Does that make sense?

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Oral History Workshop III

Interview with Nancy Cahill

Interviewer: Curtis J. Franks

DATE: May 28, 1977

LENGTH: 20 Minutes

PLACE: 108 West Leake Street  
Clinton, Mississippi

SUBJECT INDEX

Second Interview with Mrs. Nancy Cahill

Tape II

Side 1

- 00-05 min. The interviewee discusses the migratory movement of people from outside the state of Mississippi coming to Clinton to live.
- 05-08 min. The interviewee discusses the attitudes of some of Clinton's new citizens that have moved from out of state and the impact of these attitudes on race relations in Clinton.
- 08-10 min. The interviewee outlines some of the reasons that draws people from out of state to Clinton and surrounding areas.
- 10-15 min. Mrs. Cahill, the interviewee characterize the growth of Clinton as Bigot growth. She goes into detail as to how this bigot growth and the attitudes of these bigots have weakened the bonds between whites and blacks in Clinton.
- 15-20 min. Mrs. Cahill attitudes about blacks and she talks about be rearing by blacks.

## Research Accomplishment

The reading of secondary sources enabled me to trace the pattern of growth in Clinton from its early beginning to the present. Needless to say these secondary sources were onesided in that they mentioned the good things about the growth of Clinton without giving any kind of recognition to blacks in helping to bring about this growth in Clinton.

The interviews that I conduct gave me a clearer picture of the growth in Clinton in regards to the effects and benefits to all citizens of Clinton. I found out that Clinton's planned growth has perpetuated white middle class growth and at the same time the black community has been lacking in proper sewer treatment, the schools for blacks are poor condition in comparison to whites, and the over all growth of Clinton has eluded most blacks in the area.

I found that there are some things that has happened in Clinton's early that people just refuse to talk about. One such incident is the murdering of Charles Caldwell. Blacks and whites alike refused to talk about this during the interviews. All things considered the interviews aid my research tremendously.

*Did the  
Blacks giving  
now witness  
this murder?*

## Biographical Sketch

Nancy Cahill was born in the District of Columbia in December of 1942. Her parents Mr. & Mrs. Gladstone Williams moved to Clinton, Mississippi when Nancy was six weeks old.

Mrs. Cahill attended primary school as well as high school in Clinton, Mississippi. She graduated from Clinton High School in 1960. After graduating from high school she enrolled in Mississippi State College for women in the fall of 1960 and graduated in 1964 with a teachers degree in Physical Education. She has done further study at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi.

Mrs. Cahill taught for five years in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1970 she returned to Clinton, Mississippi and she taught at ~~Summer~~<sup>N</sup> Hill High School in Hinds county from 1970 thru 1973. *through*

Today, Mrs. Cahill is working at West Realty Company in Clinton, Mississippi. The realty company is owned by her father her brother and herself. Mrs. Cahill is president of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and she is on the election Committee in Clinton. She is the mother of two children and they reside at 502 Oakwood Drive, Clinton, Mississippi.



Oral History Program

Interview Summary

Interviewer: Curtis J. Franks, 24 years old.  
Interviewee: Nancy Cahill, age 34 years old  
An expert in Real Estate Management

Subjects discussed: Education in Clinton (past and present)  
Race Relations in Clinton, Health Services  
rendered, Bigot growth in Clinton, Growth  
in Black and White Clinton.

The interview went rather smooth. The interviewer and interviewee were at ease. The interviewee was very open and laid everything on the table. This was the first time I interviewed Mrs. Cahill. The interview took place in one of the offices at the West Realty Company which is located at 108 West Leake Street in Clinton, Mississippi. The date was May 27, 1977 at 3:30 p.m.

There was no one else present in the office that the interview was being conducted in. On a couple of occasions we were interrupted by the phone. The interview lasted for 60 minutes. I was impressed with the way the interviewee articulated every response.

GROWTH IN CLINTON: IN BLACK AND WHITE

Submitted by

Curtis J. Franks

Submitted to

Dr. Alferdteen Harrison

June 13, 1977

Jackson State University

Jackson, Mississippi

Submitted as partial fulfillments and requirement in the Third Annual Oral History Mini-Workshop.

## INTRODUCTION

I would like to say that I have no axe to grind as far as the pattern of growth that has taken place over the years in Clinton, Mississippi. At this time I would like to say that the people of Clinton, like other southerners are obsessed by their sense of the past, but as we all know that this does not insure the accuracy of the historical picture; often times they see legend rather than history.

Even though the city of Clinton is viewed as one with a rich historical background that has survived and thrived thru calamities such as the panic of 1837, the devastation of the civil war, the yellow fever epidemic of the 1880's and the Clinton riot. It is rightly so or human nature for the citizens of Clinton to look back at the history of their town with adulation.

My objective is to look at the growth in Clinton over the years, and see the relationship of this growth to the black community. My job as a study of history is not to tear down for the sake of tearing down, but to analyze, interpret and reconstruct written history as accurately and objectively as possible.

## GROWTH IN CLINTON: IN BLACK AND WHITE

Shortly after the town of Clinton was surveyed and incorporated into a town (1828) it soon became renowned as a commercial center and became a fashionable health resort. Clinton's early growth was centered around the railroad tracks.<sup>1</sup> This early growth centered around the tracks because of the presence of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Because of the proximity of the town of Clinton and the city of Jackson, people from Jackson migrated to Clinton to establish residents. The people were for the most part of the middle class,<sup>2</sup> today Clinton has remained a middle class town.

One of the primary reasons for the growth of Clinton through the years has been its system of education. The roots of this well spoke of educational system began with the founding of Hampstead Academy in 1826, which became Mississippi College in 1827. With the founding of this Academy the seeds for higher education had been firmly imbedded in the framework of Clinton's early history. Blacks at this point were slaves and were held in bondage. It wasn't until 1875 when a lady by the name of Sarah Dickey found Mount Herman Seminary,<sup>3</sup> which was a school founded after the civil war for blacks.

Miss Dickey struck the first blow for the education for blacks in Clinton. Today schools that are attended by Blacks in Clinton are inferior to those attended by whites. Sumner Hill High, which is a predominantly black school in Clinton is a prime example. Some textbooks used by the instructors are college textbooks. This is a handicap because the material in these books are not comprehensible by the students.

Textbooks are not the only inconvenience the students at Sumner Hill has to encounter, but their food must be transported to them from another school because the cafeteria at Sumner Hill has been condemned.<sup>4</sup> The forming of the Clinton Municipal Separate School District in 1970 has effected Sumner Hill High School and other schools in the Clinton area. The forming of the separate municipal school district has taken away valuable tax revenues from other school in Clinton. The Clinton Separate School District is just another way in which the white community in Clinton has used to protect the status quo, and at the same time denying blacks the quality education they deserve as citizens of these here United States.

Growth in Clinton has to be looked at in terms of growth in the black as well as white communities of Clinton. Growth in the black community is meager in comparison with growth in white Clinton. The status of blacks has changed since Clinton was incorporated into a town, but the fact remains that growth in the communities vary greatly.

Clinton's rapid period of growth can be traced back to the 1940's. In 1940 the town of Clinton had sewage lines constructed, fire hydrants erected and streets paved. All these improvements took place in the areas where whites resided. On the other side of town the black residents didn't get sewage lines until 1964.<sup>5</sup> Even today all the homes in the Dickey Survey area do not have proper treatment.

One can look at all the factors- health, education system and Clinton's proximity to the city of Jackson, and can readily see that the growth in Clinton is lopsided and the city is inhabited by a large number of racists whose underlining motive is to promote their racists belief.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would like to say that the city of Clinton has the potential of being one of the South's best southern cities, but the citizens and the people in government must improve the blight of the poor. They must smash the bigot growth that is taking place in Clinton and if possible for all citizens of Clinton to share in the growth of this little southern town with such a deep historical background.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Nancy Cahill, interview held at 108 West Leake Street, Clinton, Mississippi, May, 1977.

<sup>2</sup>J. L. Boyd, History of Clinton, (Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi Baptist Historical Association, 1960) p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>James W. Loewen and Charles Sallis, editors, Mississippi, Conflict and Change (New York: Random House, Inc., 1974.) p. 168

<sup>4</sup>Mrs. Willie Robinson, interview held at 809 Neal Street, Clinton, Mississippi, May, 1977.

JACKSON STATE COLLEGE

Jackson, Mississippi

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE AGREEMENT

You have been asked for information to be used in connection with the Oral History Program at Jackson State College; 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 College, Jackson, Mississippi. Other institutions or persons may obtain a copy. These materials may be made available for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publications, or for other related purposes.

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I, Nancy W. Cahill, have read the above and, in  
(Interviewee, please print)

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 College, 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 College, Jackson, Mississippi.

Nancy W. Cahill  
Interviewee (Signature)

7/22/77

Date