

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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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, George M. Jones 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.

G. M. Jones
Interviewee (Signature),

11 - 29 - 76
Date

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERVIEWEE: REV. GEORGE JONES

INTERVIEWER: DEBORAH DENARD & DR. CATHERINE WEATHERBEE

SUBJECT: " THE GOOD OLE DAYS "

PLACE: ST. JAMES SENIOR CITIZENS NUTRITIENS CENTER\$

DATE: JULY, 1976

D: DR. KATHERINE WEATHERBEE AND I ARE INTERVIEWING REV. GEORGE JONES OF THE TOOGALOO AREA ON THE " GOOD OLE DAYS". WHEN YOU HEAR SOMEBODY SAY THE "GOOD OLE DAYS", WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT?

J: WELL WHEN THEY SPEAK ABOUT THE GOOD OLE DAYS THEY GO BACK TO THEIR PAST, FORTY YEARS AGO. THAT WHAT THEY MEAN ABOUT THE GOOD OLE DAYS OR THEY BEGIN WITH THE 20 CENTURY.

D: WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

J: I WAS BORN IN ^{Clayborne} CLAYBORNE COUNTY. HERMANVILLE, MISSISSIPPI.

D: IN WHAT YEAR?

J: SEPTEMBER 28, 1903.

D:

Denard & Jones

D: What kind of work did your parents do?

J: My parents were farmers. They didn't do anything but farming.

D: How many children were there?

J: There were 4 of us. Four boys. And, I understand that ~~that~~ there were four that preceded us.

D: What kind of good ^{times} ~~days~~ do you remember at home? Kinds of things you ~~all~~ all enjoyed doing together?

J: well we enjoyed home. Just common every day living. There weren't much entertainment in the home that we have today. We had good times. Just home entertainⁱment. We worked toget^her. Just comm^mon getting along.

^{did} D: Do you'll do anything that was specifically meant for entertainment like games or outings. Things of that nature/?

J: Naw. It wasn't no home project, but in the community there was ~~picnics~~ picnics and community ball games. That was the main entertainment. Then on some ^S ~~s~~aturdays we would just get together and go to the swimming hole. (LAUGHTER)

Denard & Jones

J: Didn't have swimming suits in those days. Didn't know nothing about no swimming suits. Go behind the bush or stayed in the pond when ~~somebody came by~~ ^{folks passed.} (LAUGHTER.)

D: These would be your brothers and sisters? Neighbors?

J: Yes. No. I didn't have no sisters. Brothers and neighbors, boys.

D: Did the girls ever swim?

J: No. I've never known the girls to swim.

D: What about your early school days? Where did you go to school?

J: I went to school at the ~~Pisgah~~ Pisgah Rosawall school.

D: Was that a private school?

J: No. It was a public school. It was between 7 and 8 miles east of Birmingham.

D: What kind of activities did you'll participate ~~in~~ in those days?

J: We played baseball. Didn't know anything at all about football and basketball.

Denard & Jones

J: There weren't any high-powered bats. We ^j must had to take a board. But we had good ball games. We had a ballgame practically everyday at some of the schools. Some ~~were~~ be out there wrestling. They some times would fight. (LAUGHTER.Ø)

D: What other kind of social activity did you all participate in that you considered a good time?

J: Well, in the school there weren't ^{no} ~~any~~ dances. You'd have some type ^{of} plays or speakings. The only time we would have any dancing at the ~~sd~~ school would be the closing of the school. Of course, we had grown people and two persons who could play a fiddle or a guitar of something like that. Most of the dances were for grown grown people.

D: How many grades did the school have?

J: It had 8. It went through the eighth grade.

D: Where did you go after?

J: I went to Alcorn College. My I was hoping to ~~h~~ catch ~~h~~ the ninth grade. But, in those days English was stressed ed. Incorrect verb. Someone would say: "You broke a verb!" The teacher was strong in Math.

Denard & Jones

J: He did pretty good in English. Suppose to be one of the best teachers in ~~town~~ Clayborne County. In those days you had to take an examination for English and Math. Are you acquainted with ^{ed} with sign? That the man that and there was a young lady. There were two of us. We took the examination together. And, she did well in English, but she didn't do well in Math. Math. So she cried. She failed. You had to sympathize with her. ⁹ 9th grade. I don't know why I didn't cry, but (LAUGHTER) She got 9th grade. But anyway I was glad I went on, I took 8th grade ~~because~~ because in the 8th grade there was a good teacher. He taught a whole lot of grammar. ^{that's} There where I learned a whole lot of my grammar, in the 8th grade. So, after all, I was glad they kept me in the 8th grade.

D: What year did you go to Alcorn?

J: Let's see, it was in 23. October 7, 1923. I finished high school in 1927. Had to get 4 years to get out of high school. I came out in 31.

D: What good times do you remember during your high school days at Alcorn?

Denard & Jones

J: There wasn't too much socializing. The good things that I can remember then was when we would have a special guest there. We had the chance to carry a young lady out. And then, Easter Sunday, boys and girls could get together. Those were about the only time they could get together. Thanksgiving, we would have a Thanksgivings game. But, there was no socializing like you doing now., by no mean. If you walked up the streets side a girl, you could be behind her same distance, you could be penalized. That's right. I remember we had a social and we had one of the boys go ^{to} the girl's dormitory. A boy tried to kiss one of the girls going back to the dormitory. One of the matrons saw him. They had a big faculty meeting over it. And, finally they sent him away. That was the boy's first strike as far as I know of. Since he had been at Alcorn!

He was about a freshman, I believe. I could call the person's name right now and he would recall exactly ~~what~~ what I'm talking about. But, I won't do that. That was around 1928 when that young man left. I heard his name called about twelve months ago, or a little better, a young lady called his name, I said I remember that fellow, that fellow when I , he was at Alcorn, And I have a 1927 Alcorn , And I look in there and there was a twelve grade picture in there. And, I told the lady ~~that~~ that ~~here~~ is that same fellow, It was sure enough the same fellow, I had seen him in 40 years, I got a chance to go to his wedding in Jackson in about 3 months ago. And he has been out to my home with wife, I could go in there now and talk with him. But, anyway, he just got a little thrown out somewhere,

Denard & Jones

J: And, of course, doing the spring ^{as} ~~base~~ ball game and football we had the chance to especially walk back to the dormitory with the girls, or you could sit up in the bleaches, and at the end of the game you walk back ~~add~~ as far as the gate, We had a picket fence around ~~the~~ the dormitory. And we thought we had a big time, We'd have socials, but the boys and girls could' not dance together, And, I think that stayed on until I left there,

D: You would dance with each other?

J: Boys danced with a boy, Absolutely! Kind of crude, but... (LAUGHTER)

D: You were telling me about this first strike, What were the conditions in that? How did it come about?

J: That's what I was telling you about, ^{This young man} ~~That/boy~~ kissing that the girl, The matron identifie-d him and ⁺⁺ submitted a ~~ep~~ report, And the faculty met on him and that brought about the and the student body was their approval. Had the college torn up for 7 days, Officers from Port Gibson had to come ~~by~~ out, the Board of Trustee ~~had to come~~ ^a down and the students finally got back in line. After every thing was adjusted, several students took a leave after it got settled-down.

D: This was in 28?

J: ~~This~~ ~~This~~ This was in 29.

D: What did you'll decided not to go to classes?

J: ^w ~~Nas~~, Didn't go to classes! And, I happened to be in the dining hall every time,.... walking around

Denard & Jones

J: I've seen fellows take a stack of plates on the table and ^{push them} ~~push~~ off on the floor.

D: That ^a ~~was~~ during the (demonstration.)

J: Yea. During the noon hour, Stand syrup in the stand or they take ah, syrup stand and run the plates over with syrup. There was never ~~ah~~ anything anybody could say about it. I'd seen it, but I couldn't say anything about it.

D: O.K. You left Alcorn about 1931?

J: I left Alcorn ⁱⁿ ~~around~~ 1931.

D: What was your major in college?

J: I majored in Political education. And, I minored in mathematics.

D: Then what did you do after you graduated?

J: Well, I got out and got ^{my} ~~the~~ job, I had my job before I finished. Think it was the 31 of May. Naw, I think it was the 27 of May if I am not mistaken. And, I got my job the 17 of April. I had an interview with the ~~super~~ superintendent of _____ county. And the trustees, I had my job secured, before I finished. I was the first in the class to get a job. Well, we finished 31, there were 31 in the class. We ~~el~~ called that a big class. Jackson ~~State~~ College had _____ Alcorn had _____ If we had 30-35 in a class, that was a big class.

D: So moved to Walthon County?

J: ~~Yea~~ Yes. I began teaching in July 1. Well, I got there about the middle of June. I began work July 1, 1931.

D: _____?

J: _____

Denard & Jones

D: You were a teacher?

J: Yes, I was a principal and 8th grade teacher,

D: When did you get married?

J: I married ^wto years before I finished school,

D: So, ~~You married~~ You met your wife at Alcorn?

J: Yes, We were classmates, At that time you got 2 years certificates, The young lady was in education, So she finished her sophomore year, we decided to get married, She went out and told General court house out from Laurel, Place called ^mSummerland, Have you ever heard of that place?

D: Yea, I'm from ville, Mississippi,

J: And, you from Jones County?

D: Forrest County,

J: That's not to far, I've gone through Hattiesburg, In fact she taught 1 year, She came back to summer school, Found out she could finished work, So we stayed with one ^{of the} ~~her~~ teacher's ^{there,} ~~house~~ it was Junior year and I was doing my student teaching I came back would be a Senior the next year, Went back to summer school one year, And the teacher, told her she could finish, She could stay on during the regular school year, So, she did, Well, I had to think about what you would call a big job that year, I was the custodian and the store room keeper, A gentleman died ~~a few~~ one of our Alumni a few ago, name Mr, Lyles,

Denard & Jones

J: He had a drugstore right next to (door) That's Mr, Lyle's

He took charge of the store room, That is giving out all of the food stuff that had to be cooked, And, we had a lady that was inexperienced, And, she relied on me to do practically everything for ~~her~~ as ordering, kept a record of (transactions) a fellow from Fayetteville would come in with the ^ameat, a little beef, a fellow from Magnolia, Mississippi had to bring in syrup two and three hundred gallons at a time, Any thing like that came in I had to receive it, And give the gentleman a little statement of what he brought in, Then he would carry it up to the Business office, Of course, ^rat that ~~th~~ time they didn't call it no Business Office, And the work that I was doing, as Custodian and store room (Clerk) That is I gave out at that time the boys had wash-pan in the room, different buckets, brooms, mops, and then we'd give out tickets That ticket had to be filled with hay, We had hay mattresses, Go to the burn and get ~~your~~ ~~your~~ your hay, And, then I had the name of all of the male students, I knew exactly ^{every} where/~~all~~ ~~the~~ male students lived, I had a big book of every name and number, (RECORD) BOOK) The number of men, When the parents came the President all ways sent them to me, I could just ~~go~~ go on and carry them to their son or daughter, Not his daughter! Carry the man right on to his son room, And of course, Things were just up a little high then than they are now, We called them ~~Dean~~ Dean of Men or Dean of Students, We didn't have them terms then,

Denard & Jones

D: This was Walthon County in 1931. How long did you stay there?

J: I stayed there 4 years. I was there July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1935.

D: ~~This~~ This was during the depression?

J: Yea. During the depression. That's right. Right through

D: What was your situation ⁱduring that time?

J: ~~Like~~ Like what?

D: Like money, food and...

J: Oh. It was scarce. Just couldn't get ~~much~~ ^{money}. We couldn't get a warrant. You'd jsut get a certificate. for teaching. And, if you get somebody to cash it ~~and~~ at a discount There was
a white gentleman who gave me He was a well to
do man. And, he had a daughter. He cash a good many. Large per centage of ~~the~~ the certificates. We had certificates of... Well, at that time \$40.00 was a good salary. You know Dr. Thompson at Jackson State?

D: Yes.

J: She had her first experience with me teaching. I was of ~~the~~ the class of 31. She was in the Class of 32. I think I could as a favor \$45. from her. They paid me \$100. ~~T~~

D: By they, do you mean Alcorn?

J: Yes. And, the state ^paid half of~~g~~ my salary. And, go back to these certificates. We had certificates for \$40. Let's say \$35 or \$40. Ah, she'd make about \$10 off of that So, that
went on for about 2 years, before you could get m
~~poke~~

Denard & Jones

Jones: Some merc^{ha}ants wouldn't cash them. But, we didn't have have any trouble at the bank. And, food was cheaper at taht time. I bought round steak for 15 cents a pound. I bought a V-8 Ford for \$600. (Laughter) I bought suits for \$20. I bought 24 lbs. of flour, and I'm talking about some of the best flour for 40 and 50 cents a sack.

D: Did you farm any during that time?

J: Naw. At that time, The teachers had a little land connected to the school. For that purpose a person might have a little ~~de~~monstration plot. Of course, I had a little plot. And, of course, what you made off of it you could use for self. So, I always had my own little school garden. Then in 1935 I bought a farm. That was located in Pike county. 7 miles east of Magnolia , Mississippi. So, I began to ~~by~~ buy land in 1935. From there on up until this h^our, I always say I could go home. I've been going home every since 1935. So, anyway about 4 or 5 years ago, I sold it to my brother. My ~~broter~~ brother came to visit me about two weeks ago. I went back to Claiborne County to be with my people. Up around Hermanville, out from Magnolia. Well, I moved my people from James Countyⁿ into the farm that I bought. But I didn't stay, I left. I left Walthon County in ~~1936~~ 1935. Then I work for Scott^t County. Out from Forrest, Mississippi. I didn't spend but 8 months in that county. I pledged to get away.

Denard & Jones

D: What did you do there?

J: Well, I was and Principal, then. I was scheduled to go on to a place called Ackerman, Mississippi. There was Judge Coleman down there . And, I came to Jackson, my wife was running a store, a little cafe right next to the ^Crescent laundry. She insisted cause I was yet. She just wanted to go along. She was just a girl. I was hoping to go and come on back. Well, I did come back. But, after I got there the trustees... I even remember the man I had to see about the job, was having a big rally. Paul Johnson was having a rally. I've forgotten the name ~~of~~ of the place now. It was between~~ed~~ the place that I went to which was named Harperville. and Forrest where the rally was going on. So, the man that invited me to come to look the job over was at that big picnic ~~that~~ that day. So, I didn't get the chance to see him nor the trustees. If I had been by my-~~self~~ self, I would have gone to Ackerman because I had ~~my~~ my plans to be with the superintendent there. But, I had to bring the lady back to Jackson. And, I went back to Ackerman the next morning. When I got back the next ~~of~~ morning, the man, the trustee who had invited me ~~if~~ just wouldn't let me go. So I ~~just~~ just agreed with them. Then it came up this superintendent was threatening to take off agricultural work there, and I was glad. I had the ~~of~~ chance to get away then. I came out from there then, and came on back home. Went back to my farm. And, the~~of~~ next year, I think it was about 36 or 37, I went on to County. This school was be-

Denard & Jones

J: ~~When~~ This school was between Liberty and Magnolia, Mississippi.
 It's a no number highway there. I ~~was~~ ¹³ there for about 18/months.
 And, I went from there to Jefferson Davis County near Prentiss, Ms.
 The post office was in Silver Creek. Well, I was there 4 years.
 Right before the second World War was to bre-ak out. I was elected
 to another year and school was to begin in September sometimes.
 Well, I left there around the first of September. Then I got ~~h~~
 the chance to come back to my home. I got a job right there in
 the county. The high school was in Magnolia.

D: What is your remembrance of WWI?

J: Well, I was a ~~small~~ ⁱ fellow then. I remember when they ~~said~~ the
 war came to a close 1917. I remember several young men of the com-
 munity that went to the Army. I remember when they came back.
 I ~~en~~ remember the songs that people made them sing about . People
 made-up songs, bouts they called them at that time. Bring them
 to the church and sell em. After awhile some of the folks in the
 church would learn them and they would sang them. . . .

D: Like what for instance? *Some of the names of the songs.*

5.

J: Well, one was entitled, "When the Boys Come Home" [✓] I know the
 words for another one, but I'm trying to get the title ~~for~~ ^{of} it.
 One big thing that I remember, they had a bad outbreak of flu.
 It was called influenza at ~~that ta~~ that time. Of course, they
 call the word flu for short now. And, it was very detrimental.
 A good many died from it. ^{Of course,} More whites died from ~~it~~ than did Blacks.

I'm trying to think of the name for another one.

Denard & Jones

J: ^c Because the Blacks did not go to the Doctor. ~~In~~ Instead... tea / and hog... tea and ~~sh~~shuck tea, and all like that. And then some of the white families began to use it too. They found out that (Laughter) that Blacks... Hermanville they had to have two or three deaths ah the same day. By the ~~ah~~ way I was in a Council meeting yesterday over at the R&D center. And, the ~~health~~ doctor, the health doctor, Dr. Maxvear, he was M.C. ...V.E.Y. He was one of our guests there yesterday. And, he went back ... You know we are concerned about flu now, you know.

D: Huh. U

J: He went back and talked about that flu, yesterday. So, these are some of the things that stood out in . Boys leaving, I know how ⁱ the reaction from the parents. And then the flu came ~~up~~ upon us. Those were two thing that ~~stood~~ stood out.

D: Did you have any brothers to go?

J: No.

D: What was the reaction of the parents?

J: Well, we accepted it. ~~Weel~~ You know of course, a child leave out from the home grief ~~for~~ for as that was concerned. Other than that

D: You mentioned a hog cup of tea. What's that?

J: Hog cup tea.

D: Hog cuff tea? What is that?

J: Well, that tea... you know hog got a ... You've seen hogs haven't you?

D: Ugn. Yea!

J & D: (Laughter)

D: The hoof!

J: Yea, In killing the hog you can pull that ^{hoof} feet in hot water and you can pull that little old ~~feet~~ ^g off I might not can pronounce

Denard & Jones

J: I might not can pronounce it as you do.

D: Ogh

J: And, a they , mothers would save those things. When sicknesses occur like colds or flu you could use it take it and boil it some way. Sweeting it up ^{there} ~~some way~~ and give it to ~~ly~~ you.

D: Oh, I see.

J: Then take all day shucks, All them shucks then just ~~se~~ ⁿ sweeted the tea from the shucks. Put water on the shucks and boil them. Called it shuck tea. (Laughter)

D: UM. I see. Okay, we ~~a~~ can move up a bit now to when you were in Forrest, Mississippi. What was it about Forrest ~~that~~ ~~that~~ that you didn't like? Was it Forest?

J: Well, this was... I was ~~ly~~ I was out from Forrest in Harlanville in Scott county. At that time, the school was called Mid-way

Denard & Jones

J: That was the name of the community. Now they call it North Scott. And, they built a big school there since I left. In fact, I been back ~~ter~~ there once ~~since~~ ^o Young fellow came to Tougaloo. And, finished two years of high school and college. And, while during his college years, latter part, I went back to the community with him. I been away^y from there almost exact 20 years. since the time I went back. And, of course^e the community had changed ~~wi~~ quite a bit. And, another thing about it. During the winter season we had so ~~the~~ ^s much^h rain we just couldn't get out ~~therd~~ there. Just almost impassable. To get out. So, I didn't like in the community. And, Of course, when I got the ^{opportunity} ~~chance~~ I just came on ~~from~~ out of there.

D: Uh Huh. I see. What kinds of things did you do when you were at those little places like Harperville, and a Mid County and Jefferson Davis county? What kinds of things did you do for entertainment? Social activity?

J: Well, at that time was when I first went out to teach. Basketball was a big thing going-on. When I went into a school I know anything I had never seen any basketball football in my life. Without once ^r of twice practicing for football. got all sore. Then, I didn't have time to play football anyway.. Because my parents never ~~a~~ paid a dime for me to go to school. I had to work my through school. If I wouldn't have had that kind of time, I would

~~have~~

Denard & Jones

J: I thought I would ~~have gone~~/out and tried Went out several morning, I was so sore, wasn't no I just stopped going out. Well, anyway, when I went out, when I went to Walthon County. My first teaching experience. First thing I did I ~~a~~ ran into basketball. And, I got a little rule book. And, I learned more from the boys. Yea, I learned from the boys. I used them in such a way that....I didn't know anything about it yet they gave me all of the respect. Just ~~that~~ that I knew how to do it, I just worked through the boys. And, I had a very nice ^b basket~~ball~~ team. They most of the schools I jsut had good basketball teams. Up in Jefferson Davis County, near Prentiss I took my team, then they came back to Magnolia^a. Out from Magnolia, where I bought my place. My land joined with the church and school ^{ir} property. And, my wife was working there. The ~~fr~~st year I was at Jefferson County, my family was still there so that's my home. My wife was working there at the community school right ~~sat~~ at my home. The school had joined my place. So, I brought my team down play them. Played against a school called, named Hill. And, I brought my team down to play them. Girls and boys. Had a good team. I could tell you You got a lady there at Jackson College now. working in the library was my main basketball player. ~~D~~ This young lady went to Alcorn and finis^{ed}~~ed~~ Alcorn. And, was an out-standing basketball p^layer. She and Mrs. Firnch (sp.). Mrs. Firnch ~~played~~ at Jackoson State.

D: Uh Huh. I know Mrs. Firnchs,

J:

Denard & Jones

J: I Mrs. Firnchs home when teach at Magnolia, Mississippi. And, she and Firnchs were the stars on Alcorn's basketball team. They come there and played Tougaloo. And, just beat Tougaloo to death.

D: Who was the^r lady at- the library?

J: This lady, I was coming back, this lady ~~been~~ Mrs. she was a Sutton. At that time she was working in some of the shop for the secretary. Well, I understand now that she is in the library. She was my main basketball player. And, then there were two ~~girl~~ girls, two sisters and they were twins. And, they had pretty good height. So, I ~~was~~ had a good girls basketball team. And, boys. So, you know ~~Ms~~ Miss. Alberts was one of my students there at Jefferson Davis county. And, of course, Mrs, Firnchs, I didn't teach her however. I was her home-room teacher for the ~~time~~ 12 grade class. Her husband, in fact they ~~had~~ have property out there. Well, they got some property right in front of our house. Where I live now. Mr. Firnchs came out I was setting up a line for my all this could be heard too. I was setting up a line for ah..... I was setting up a ma..... for my line. And, I was taking it from ~~j~~ his side measuring it. I knew exactly where his lot....he has two lots I knew exactly where his lot ~~started~~ ^{/stopped} and ~~we~~ where the other one begins. put down an iron peg there. So, he came out like didn't know what talking about. I called his attention. He didn't speak so you know sometimes a fellow can kind of speak a little dull. You know, it kinda throw you off a little bit.

J: And, he found out where it waas, he turn right aound and made me an apology. (Laughter) I said, oh yes. I was your wife's homroom ^{er} homeroom teacher when I was in Magnolia, Ms. He came back the next morning out there on Sunday morning, too. He happen to see me in my car port. He'll speak to me from as far as that house out there.

D: Okay. We're up to the point to where you came to Jackson. How did you decided to come to Jackson? To work?

J: Well, its Let me get right on int the story. I ~~a~~ came to... I was doing agricultural work in two of the small county school,s And, me and this gentleman was a ^o at Magnolia, A ~~Mr.~~ A. J. Dillard. Mr. Dillard lived here for about ^o And, he came and prevailed me to come to Magnolia. And, then the superintendent agreed and I got the ~~are~~ ^{en} agreement from the ^S state ^E department of education. So. I came there and there was quite a bit of land there in Magnolia. And I just came the Walthon ^{county} training school where I had my first teaching experience. We ^e organized the girls and boys. Put them in a club there call^{ed} it the Agricultural and Home Economics ^{ub} class. We had a combination of both groups. And, I did the same thing there at Magnolia. And, some things I just worked to ~~begin/en~~ ^{beginning of} working them together. Working them together, I get them in the fall, we just planted turnip and mustards. There ^e we had nice mustards and turnips ^e there at Magnolia. It kind of opened their eyes up. Of the community. Then there spring and summer. I had a nice ^{ta} vegetable crop. ~~Pe~~ People thought it was very nice. They had never seen that much vegetable ~~grow~~ grow on ~~such~~ ^{such} a small place.

Denard & Jones

J: And the teacher at Tougaloo her mother home was in Magnolia. Her ^{gn} Magnolia was living there and at one time she was Supervisor, then again she was the home demonstration . She was a Mrs Gore (Gordon). And, ~~the~~ this lady that I'm talking about she had just started. She's a Mrs. Gray now. Do you know Mrs. Gray?

D: (Didn't respond.)

J: So she came here for Christmas. And, she was talking to her mother about it. Of course, I didn't know it at that time. And, they closed up for Xmas holidays. I happened to go to Magnolia. She saw me and said: "You're the very man I want to see." Then she told me what her mother had said. And, she said: "We want to begin at Tougaloo, we want to put into our ~~economics~~ home economics vegetables growing, poultry production." She called two or three things, you know. "We want to set it up on the pattern of Tuskegee. And, you would be the very man we'd want there. And, she talked. ^{Reckon} "Can we get you now?" As quick as I can get out of my job. Before June the 30 Or July 1. And, probably before ~~that~~ that time, it might be possible we could have ^{that} ^{some} contact. So, anyway, that ended the conversation, right. She said: "Well, I'm going to tell Dean about you."

Denard & Jones

J: And sure enough come a weeks time, I got a letter, from
 Tougaloo. come on down for an interview. So, I
 went. And, they were asking me about the possibility of com-
 ing then. I told them I couldn't come. I felt I could let ~~te~~
 them know between that time and June. I was sure that by that
 time I could tell ^{whether} ~~if~~ it could be possible that I could come. So,
 I did. I begin work there at Tougaloo September 1, 1945. My
 family was still from Magnolia ^{out} county. My wife was the
 Princip^{al}~~le~~. She was the elementary principal, there at the high
 school at Magnolia. Then she had been elected to be Principal for
 the next year. But, after I left, then she made a change to be right
 back to that school ~~that~~ joined my premises. So, the superintendent
 made the ex~~ch~~ange. And, they paid her the same salary at the school
 that ~~if~~ she went to ~~as~~ as they were paid her at Magnolia. So, she
 taught there from September til I got a house. See when I got there,
 weren't no house available. Finally, an English teacher that was sup-
 pose to come back, did not come back. There was a vacant ~~o~~ house. So
 when the ~~if~~ Trustees had a meeting, Miss. Gordon at that time and then
 Dean took me . Those two they wo^uld always
 talk with me. And, tell me if the Trustees we^re going to be in or out.
 Talked about your house. All like that. They would encourage me on it.
 Boost me up, you know. Some of the Trustees ask me did I 9 o'clock
 with the ~~wa~~ head Trustee there and we went by and ~~li~~ look at
 the house. But, ~~they~~ they were a little bit skeptical, ~~see~~ See, I was
 coming in there with seven children. Nowhere better person around ~~Tougaloo~~

Denard & Jones

J: Tougaloo county with seven children! And, at that time, Tougaloo did allow, you couldn't walk on ~~it~~ no grass up there on that campus or nothing like that. ~~C~~ Couldn't walk ~~on that~~ cross that campus! Naw! And, I, they were a little sceptical. Thought the children would break-out the windows. So, anyway, they agreed that I could get the house. So, just ~~it~~ before Xmas, I moved my family there. So we stayed there in that house twelve years! There wasn't a window-pane brokeⁿd out. Or nothing like that. Old shrubbery and stuff roun^df there just bad, I brought all th^ose things out. We had a prettty. In fact, I had the~~y~~/ second best kept premises on the campus. That's right. Thsoe children kept ~~efve~~ everything, lawn and everything mowed, just in shape. We stayed there in that house twelve years.

//////////THE END OF SIDES 1 AND 2 OF ME THE DENARD & JONES TAPE.//////////