

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

ORAL HISTORY STUDY OF:
SENIOR'S CITIZIN'S
RECOLLECTIONS OF THE GOOD OLE DAYS

Interviewer: Dr. Katherine Weatherbee
Interviewee: Rev. George Jones
SUBJECT: "Good Old Days"

W: In the home of Rev. and Mrs. George Jones, on Hill Pleasant Drive, in the Tougaloo Community. Rev. Jones has been contents to be interview for our Reacher Project, that look at what some of our Senior Citizin consider to have geen the "Good old Day" in the Jackson Mississippi, areas. The purpose of this project is to utilize the resource of our people, so that we may better understand our inherited, and estabilish the contributory that was may by Southern toward the told inherited of our counties. The second reason is, we know that Senior Citizen are good resources, for young people, as a source of I , as a source of determined ah, for the feature, and just a welth of knowledge that never get into test books. Rev. Jones when did you come to the Jackson, Mississippi areas?

J: September, ah 1945.

W: When you came were you seeken better employment or just another place to live, or what was the circumstance?

J: Well I was seeken employment, in fact ah, the I was sourt for employment, I was sourt for employment.

W: Okay where did you live?

J: I was working at the

at the time I

W: And where did you come to?

J: I came to Tougaloo college, that was in 1945.

W: In what

J: I came in the-the I came as an instructor in God home God production. What junior college in the Home Economics department.

W: Uh, ah when you came ah to Jackson Rev. Jones, what was your general impression of Jackson, Mississippi, as a place to live?

J: Well I thought very highly of the place, I wasn't exactly living in Jackson I was there on Tougaloo Campus. And ah I did know too much about Jackson at that time. I was impressed with the condition that was on Tougaloo Campus.

W: What general was your then with the city, ah realizing ah that you lived and work in the Tougaloo areas: When-when you did go into Jackson was it basic for entertainment or shopping or something of this sort.

J: Well it was mostly for shopping, and course ah entertainment for as sport wise football, basketball first of all college.

W: Alright I'm going to ask you about some preferred aspect of life: (1) What do you think ah, ah of education during that time, on our college campus and publish school education as you know about it in the Jackson precedent?

J: Well education at the time I came to Jougaloo was, ah lot bid of put on it in studies was very eager to learn and they was very well taught, they was interested and there books and concern

W: You said that ah the programs ah, ah for which you was hired was the ah a program for women.

J: Yea.

W: That was related too the homemaking department?

J: Department, yea.

W: What-what was the there Rev. Jones? and why Women?

J: Well they ah, they wanted young women to know about hom garden, when they got out in the world housewives that they would have knowledge of ah home garden, and not only that but ah they could even give information to the housewives about garden how to grow more gardens.

W: Okay it it was more less a contenting of the -the ah help yourself. though that grew out the 30's then was it.

J: Yes.

W: Uh, during that time. Okay, what do you know ah about relegion life, in an around the Jackson areas during that time, Rev. Jones, ah was your activity limited to Tougaloo Campus ah did you have a chance to visited Church out in the community?

J: Ah yes, ah most of my time was conected with the releigion life there on Campus in I was a Sunday School teacher there, and I taught the freshman studies Sunday school class. And then I was conected with the ah church services, and at time I did go out into the community

W: Were -were the Churches a continuing some of the social aspect such as dinner on the grown and ah special during revival time, that we ah during that time as we have now, and many of our real areas.

J: No, I did experiencé that dinner on the grown, since I been here. Since I been in this part of the county, since, 1945.

W: Uh. (Laughter)

J: dinner on the grown like it use to be years before I After I came back from Alcorn

W: When were you at Alcorn?

J: Alcorn 1931.

W: You was there as a ^{student} ~~studie~~, were you.

J: Oh, yes.

W: Uh.

J: I went there in 1923.

W: Oh, my hired as a ^{student} ~~studie~~, and then you work there.

J: And ah I was a ^{student} ~~studie~~ there from 1923 though 1935.

W: And of course you you had ah many opportunity then to to ah perfect in Churches, I certected in an around Alcorn areas.

J: Yes, well not to many, we we have ^{students} ~~studie~~ ah during the summer, and we just, we-we boys church in the community. it was about 30's of use on the bus, there was a cold bus down there at Alcorn.

W: (Laughter), no heater. Ah did you belong to any of the in the order ah in in areas since since you ah been in this Tougaloo, Jackson areas? Did you with any of those.

J: Naw not until recently course ah ah probably past four or five years

W: Uh, it just basic one that grew out of setting. Other then just a ah, ah the general for order, you know. Alright Rev. Jones what do you consider to have been perhaps the strong factors as aspect of family living, ah during the 40's and 30's?

J: Well ah, I think during the 30's and 40's the strong factors.

W: Some of the strong points are the strong aspect of family living.

J: Just well the hard work it wasn't much money and it, it wasn't much financial in t ose tie. I'm hoping t at thing would come out, so and being

in being economics to those might be some of the things

W: Find, you doing fine. Did you, do you have children?

J: Yes.

W: Were they were they here with you? Ah since, ah since you been at Tougaloo, well I know they must have, because you were very young when you came.

J: Yes we, we grow seven.

W: (Laughter). Do you, do you think ah education children in the whole ah responsible related to being parents. What more different or more easily done at time.

J: Well for as des despicable it was with it was not compare with time now.

W: Uh, where did?

J: Ah cause the time now, I mean at the time at those time ah, the salary was so well they work use cheap for students. I know I had a boy to clean up the shop getting four dollars a month. fifteen or, twenty dollars a month.

I say this that, for as the distance it was much more easily to despicable then.

W: Uh

J: Even in the family life also and, also in the students life. My

W: What was the cheap source of entertaining for family and, in young couple ah when you first came to the Jackson areas?

J: Well we had ah social on Friday night and special ah during the holidays

even at ah ball games,

W: Do you know very much about the business ah as they existence in the community ah, ah, did you know anything about business that was on by black, when you first came to Jackson?

J: Yes, one or two I new ah down on Farrish Street ah

W: Uh.

J: Smith on Valley Street, let see

W: But generally

J:

W: Uh.

J: Eating places

W: Uh, and for the most part that was ah the general the kind of business that black ah ah operated.

J: The biggest was the cafe

W: Uh. What do you think about commission service, during the time Rev. Jones, ah course I know we had telephone, water line, and sudpipe, and all of that was no was ah ah those thing was no problem when you got here, electricity all of t at was well on the way when you got to Jackson. Ah what you think about health services when you came?

J: Well the health, health service was very fair, we had two little services, we had ah nurse on the campus, and course Jackson not been so far distance of seven miles had one or two, no had two or three black doctor there in Jackson. Dentist was doctor And ah doctor Bouns, dentist and also a doctor Smith. They had two or three blacks doctors, out in the hall, and ah

W: When the medical services, ah was fair or probably fairly, ah-ah in the Jackson areas generally it has been that way for years, because this has been, the growing aears in had our, our visiting physical to out to work and this areas, more so then some other areas. What about other kind of that might have been, and and the city ah the zoo, or the or park or anything of t at sourt, ah had Jackson had developed to that extent, during the 40's?

J: Yes, they had the zoo, and -and they had the parks, that really about the same parks

W: As a finally question, what do you consider to have been out of all of the things we have talk about ah the most ah postive aspect of your hav- ing move to Jackson areas. What was you most please with?

J: Well one of the main thing while we, me and my wife.

Church

The sake of

our children getting an education. That was the main thing.

We throught about

almost teaching any

but being there try to teach and produce a farm

life,or

very

expense to try to educated seven children you see

That was one of the main reason I came to Tougaloo.

W: Where were you Rev. Jones before, before you came to College
you and Mrs. Jones.

J: Magnolia Mississippi I was at

She
was the prinpical of the elementary school and that city of course as I
was coming in ah she game her job, she didn't get a job then the same
time I did. So she gave up her job in the city, and there was a school
yard by the propect

W: Uh,

J: had

been here a while get a house for the family

Christmas time

W: In since then are all of the Children away from the Jackson area now?

J: No, it ah one daughter live here in Jackson, the rest is off.

W: So were able to do what you wanted to do.

J: Yes.

W: That good. Alright Rev. Jones I surly appreciative you to
do this interview with use and as we said before the information will be
use in our "Oral History Reacher Project", the tape we have made all
from individual, ah visted all of the nutriment sight well be place in
the oral history ah file for the Library at Jackson State in when stud-
ent are working with these kind of project, they will probable listen

to these tape. And that why we needed your permission to use them.
Ah relaizeing fully well that what you have said on this tape well
merrily related to your person experierment and your opinion, ah and
that why we wants your permission ah to ah use them for other reason.

J: Yea.

W: Thank you very much.

J: You welcome

End of Interview