

SUMMARY

Circumstances of Interview: The interview took place in Mr. Scott's home which is an apartment in a Senior Citizens apartment complex called "Golden Key Apartments." The apartment bore only the necessities of life, no extras. The appearance of the ~~appearance~~^{apartment} of the apartment reflected the interviewee's character which was straight forward, in a manner of speaking.

Tommy Johnson, a senior history major, sat in on the interview. The interviewee seemed eager to be of assistance. He is a well educated man and has had numerous interesting experiences.

Information Learned: Unfortunately, the interviewee has not lived in Jackson for the period of time required for the ~~product~~^{project}. Due to inadequate preparation on my part in reference to pre-interviewing, this error was made. I was overwhelmed with the fact that this person had been a contractor all of his life and felt that he could contribute much to the project. In light of the interviewee's excitement at being able to help, I decided to conduct the interview anyway.

Mr. Scott has lived in many places and has had most of his dealings with construction work. He is a ~~civil~~^{civil} engineer educated at Ohio State University, Youngstown, Ohio. It appears that his dealings with labor people could possibly be useful to the upcoming workshop in oral history.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mr. Scott Brown came to Jackson in 1951. He is originally from Elkins, West Virginia. He was born in 1912. His early education was in grade school in Elkins. Later he attended junior high school in Youngstown, Ohio. He came to Mississippi from Alabama on a job for the International Paper Company. He is the father of two sons.

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, Brown H. Scott 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.

Brown H. Scott
Interviewee (Signature)

9-28-1976
Date

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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

INTERVIEWER: Ms. Deborah Denard
INTERVIEWEE: Mr. Brown Scott
SUBJECT: "Good Ole Days"
DATE: May 4, 1976

- D: Today is Tuesday, May 4, 1976. I am interviewing Mr. Brown Scott, in his home at the Golden Key Apartments on _____ Street in Jackson, MS., about the "Good Ole Days."
- D: Mr. Scott, when you hear the phrase "Good Ole Days" what does it mean to you?
- S: It is really a comparison to the good days today and the things of yesterday. It is hard to say, "Good Ole Days", in a sense that we enjoyed them at that time but, what applicable then is not applicable today. . . makes a big difference.
So when you ask somebody about the "Good Ole Days" you use to ask him about the times he had in the old days, right. What he called pleasure.
- D: You said you were born in West Virginia, so you had your early schooling there too.
- S: No, no. My father was an engineer for the Stoney Webster Construction Company. . . Well, I did go to grade school three years, . . . I just don't recall exactly. I was probably eight or nine years old.

S: Then he got transferred to the State of Ohio, in another territory. This cause me to have to go to school over there. . .I would like to retract. . . I did finish grade school there and I went to Junior High in Youngstown, then Princeston and then a technical high school, called South High. From there, I went to Ohio State.

D: What are your rememberance of good days during your grade school years?

S: We had parties and parties that were associated with summer school parties. . .Of course, I wasn't a volunteer church goer; I was pressured in going to Church during those days. We had some good times and food and luckily I was. . .My parents was pretty well-ado; I didn't want for anything, really. But, I can't complain about the "Good Ole Days" at all. (Laughter)

D: What Church were you affilliated with?

S: Southern Presbyterian. My people belonged there and naturally, I went.

When I went to Youngstown, Ohio, I also went to the Presbyterian Church. I wasn't a regular, but in terms of attending three or four days a week I did go frequently.

D: Do you have any rememberances about dinner on the grounds?

- S: Oh, yes! I always enjoyed them. Of course, we always got in everybody's way as youngsters but, that is what was expected. (Loud laughter)
- D: How many sisters and brothers do you have?
- S: I have two brothers. Both of them are younger; I am the oldest.
- D: What are your remembrances of your family life in the home while in Elkins.
- S: I can only speak for myself, naturally but, I was more or less. . .being the eldest. . .My father was a very active man and a large man, well-educated. He had more degrees than a thermometer behind his name. I think he graduated from the University of Virginia.
- He and I went fishing, hunting, and a lot of trips on fishing journeys.
- My mother was also a College graduate. She is a musician. She tried to teach me the piano, singing, playing various instruments, and. . .I don't know how successful she was at that. (Loud laughter)
- That is my association, as far as activities in terms with my parents, other than a normal household affair.
- D: What kind of music did you play in the home or Church?
- S: Primarily, she entered me into Classical or Semi-Classical but, being a kid, I wanted to hit that. . .what you'all call "jive" now.

- S: What did we call it. . .ah, . . ."rag time".
- D: What are your rememberances of "rag time" music that musicians and bands made.
- S: Ah, it was good rhythemics. . .ah, stirred your blood and rhythms flowing and ah, it was always good at parties, dancing and so-on-and-so forth. It's similar to what you have today but, actions are a little different and approaches are a little different, but basically it was the same.
- D: Did you ever go to any of the Concerts where the bands would be playing or dance as well?
- S: Oh, yes! Yes.
- D: Do you remember some of the big bands you saw?
- S: Sure. I use to go up to the ah, . . .H
PA Bands and hear ah, and some
of the old-timers, Red who shinned
pennies and ah, Texas and the Radiators.
We had cars. . .money wasn't really our problem, so
we had little bit freer I guess. . .but, our little
community I was in was pretty ah, . . .is ah, medium
community. We weren't rich in terms you think of
rich; we weren't poor either.
- D: What kind of dealings did you have with the outside
community. (Communities outside of your own.)

S: What do you mean by dealings?

D: You lived in a community, and you usually associated with the people with that community?

S: Oh, certainly! I mean at these various functions, that I just got through mentioning.

D: When you were in Elkins, for instance, you lived in a certain community. Did you have any contact with people outside your community as a child?

S: Well, nearest I can remember I think we were more community-minded then, then they are now. Ah, my experience in later years, I've lived next door to people and never knew them and they never knew me. But, then it was more general. . .had more functions, gatherings. . .I can't think of the right word for it now, but I think you know what I mean. It was more ah, a feeling of compassion for groups like that and individuals and ah, of course there were problems too. As near as I can recall, . . .I'm not making any comparisons on this at all but, ah, we really got along fine with our neighbors. And, it was the question of health, we didn't have the resources that you have today to obtain health. . .why it was just like going next door or someplace else and there was no problem.

D: How old were you when you moved to Youngstown?

S: I 'spect I was about ah, . . .(Laugh). . .twelve or fourteen.

D: That was around the mid '20's.

S: Oh, yes.

D: What were some of the good days you remember at Youngstown?

S: Oh, my! I was getting a little older, then; I was a little more mature. And ah, it depends upon what you mean "Good Days".

D: What were some of the things you enjoyed?

S: Well, I was the type of person, just about enjoyed everything. I was ah, not-happy-go-lucky but, wasn't reserved at all. I played ball and ah, . . .course I still was maintaining my music to a certain extent. . . sort of slacking off a little bit. In those days, ah, a boy playing a piano was not as well thought of as a boy playing a piano, today. (Loud laughter) I think you understand what I mean. . . . thats why this can't be no comparison.

I enjoyed myself; I enjoyed life very much. Oh, I had disappointments, naturally.

D: What about your high school days?

S: Junior High or Senior.

D: Senior High.

S: Oh, I had a good time. I belonged to several clubs and ah, I was ah, Hi-Y. . .ooh yea, and of course, I was in the music room too.

- S: But, now in my Senior year I started taking my technical work. I was following my fathers foot-steps.
- D: You went to a technical high school?
- S: Oh, yes! We had Liberal Arts and that. I attended all those functions, geared myself and had initiations. We had. . .speaking of initiations which they don't have today, in fact, they are banded most of them. They were a little smear physically and ah, of course I was just getting into that phase but, when I got to college we really had initiations. . . . I enjoyed every minute of it. At the time I didn't think too much of it. . . well, afterso if you look back (Laughter) and realize the . . .I can't use the word importance, because it wasn't important, really. It was an accessory to that type of life.
- D: By the time you were in Senior High School, it must have been around the early 1930's?
- S: (Laughter) I'm not going to brag, but I promise to make these statements. Now, I got through grade school in about six and a half years. And, ah, I . . . our classes at the high school were A & B. Well, I managed to jump a couple of A's well. . . (three altogether). That was due to the advancement that you made in those days. I suppose they still do it today.

S: See, that High School I went to was crowded. In other words, we didn't have as much ah, pastime. I just noticed a school over there have a lot of drill times and Physical Education and time. We didn't have that. We had to go to school four to six hours a day and that was it. No busses to take; I walked about eight miles a day to get to and from school. Oh, my father when he was available would run me back and forth, when I was too young to have a car. He let me drive but, he didn't let me have one. When I got to the age of _____ I was able to have one, like that.

D: When did you graduate from high school?

S: I got out of there in ah, . . . I think it was in the fall of '29. Maybe it was in the spring of '30. I entered the University in '30, and I got out in January, 1934.

D: You were in College during the Depression?

S: I was in College during the first of the Depression, thats true.

D: What were things like then, generally?

S: Well, (Clear throat). At the time, I was in high school and that interval between senior in High School and freshman in College, the world started to go "pot". Our little impact wasn't felt really until 1931. By the time I graduated from the University it was being felt all over the world. But still, my father and all my people . . . my grandfather was a very wealthy man, he loss practically everything he had. He later recovered some.

- S: Things were just going to pieces then. It really didn't have an affect on me materiality until I went out on my own. After my father got killed. . .in 1936. . .that's when I began to feel the pinch. But, I was fortunate during the depression . I didn't have no trouble getting a job for some reason or another. It wasn't a big paying job but, it was good money then..
- D: Food was being rationed in other places, I know but how was that done at the school that you went too. Did you have a limited amount of food . . .
- S: I don't recall! I don't recall any limitation in the food departments! I really don't. Let me put it this way. . .I didn't recall the necessity of food during a pressure until I got out of the University and started on my own. Then it wasn't really pressure. It was easy gotten if you had the with-all to get it with. No, I can't say. . .as far as I'm concerned that the food was a major obstacle in our life.
- D: What about the other students? Did you notice a drop in the number or any changes?
- S: Oh, yes! We had quite a few at least among my circle that had to drop out because of finances. There were other reasons too. Looking back, we had to finance among the other ingredients and probably the major reasons for dropping out.
- D: What was your major in College?
- S: Beg your pardon. BSCE. Bachelor of Science
- D: You finished in 1934. You experienced difficulties in finding a job?
- S: No, not at all! Not at all! I never experienced any difficulties

S: Oh well, you got to go hunt for a job. . .I mean I don't call that difficult. It was the problem of putting your-self to the test and proceeding .

D: Let me go back a minute,

S: Certainly.

D: College days. What are your remeberances of "good days" in College ? You mentioned initiations and things like that; I assume you meant fraternities.

S: Oh, yea. I really didn't have the time. . .a whole lot of time to do a lot of social work at College. When I was boning, my father ah, was a tremendoulsy help to me because he had been through all that before.

D: He was in Civil Engineering.

S: Well, he had a degree in several architectural structure. The three I know of. (Laughter) I was really interested in it. Play, came second with me. I may sound servere but I

In fact, I would like to go to school, right now. (Laughter) I enjoyed every minute of it. Of course, I had a lot of boning to do. I had my good times socially.

D: Can you give me a for instance?

S: Beg pardon.

D: Can you give me an example?

S:

D: We will get to those. (Laughter)

S: Well, I enjoyed association with my ah, . . . house -- students.

S: It was Co-ed you know. We didn't have any problems getting partners for various functions: dances, parties, and so-on and so-forth. There was no problem there. We got into a little... ah, "devilment" every once in a while; I don't know anybody who don't. We're not students if we don't. Because you know, . . .you're a student I'm sure. . .and ah, you can realize what possibly what I'm trying to say. "When you get to be a student, and after you get a few years of basics under your belt (your mind) you began to think perhaps you don't know more than the old people that's already ahead of you." Things just started going right, well that was true. We were pretty well under parental control at least, in my group. They had problems then with ah, people, students, boys and girls, similar to what they have now. But, I really can't complain about about any of my school days at all. There were some bad ones but, they went along with the same channel. Nothing you could do about that but fortunately they were controlled or made to be controlled.

D: After you had graduated, where did you work?

S: Steel Corporation in Youngstown, Ohio. I went in there as a roof designer and everything pertinent to that. The supported structure, not all of it, because I was still an infant in that stage. Well, I say I. . .we would work under a little squardoms. It was four to six in each squad. We were still going through a training too, and learning. In fact, everyday I learn something. Then I forget about that much more what I had prior too. (Laughter)

D: How was money then, salary?

S: Compared to what?

D: Compared to what other people were making in living standards.

S: Comparable. I can give you some figures if it would make any. . .

D: Yes.

S: I think I started. . .remember this was right in the mid 30s. . .

I started in at a \$175 a month, which was not pennies in those days. From then on, to the begining of World War II, I had no problems.

I mean, we had problems. . .please don't get me wrong but, jobs didn't last long then ^{as} they do now. At least I didn't think so. You may have been in the wrong companies. It seems to me, that the impact of the Depression, these large companies were begining to feel that impact, consequently, a lay-off. But then again, if you were on the ball, you didn't have a whole lot of trouble. You were a little out of position, but basically what you studied in school you had to for something to it. . .(Bell ringing) adjust. It was easy of adjust if you set your mind to it. (laugh)

D: How much was the Rent then? Or was you living with your parents?

S: No, no. I was living with my parents then. (Vehicle Distractions)

My father had passed away in 1936. I was over with my parents at first, but when he passed away. . .he was still at Stoney Webster. . .my mother sold the property they had. I don't know the particulars of it, because I wasn't there at the time.

She got a place in Maryland. She went back to Elkins and stayed there, I don't know how long exactly during the settlement of the property. When it was completed, thats when she went to Maryland.

S: I finished several more jobs. In those days, I believe we called them positions. (Laughter) Then I went to live with her.

My brother next to me, lived with her. He was working with the Steel Company. My youngest brother was still very small. He was going to school. He finished school at Cumberland and I finished working on several big projects around Maryland. I started playing politics and did right well, financially.

D: Could you explain that ordeal to me?

S: Getting behind somebody, you want to see in as governor. And after he gets in as Governor, he pays you off. I got some wonderful positions of jobs from one particular guy, who was engineer over five counties.

D: Under whom?

S: State.

D: What period of years did you have these jobs?

S: You mean, my political , "Three- politics. It was in the latter part of the 30s and the beginning of the 40s.

D: I had asked you about your rent. You remember when you were making \$175 a month. What was the cost of living like: rent and food. . .

S: Oh, ah. . .my rent run. . .I think. . .about \$28 a month. I remember the figure seven. We paid it weekly. I was married then too, you know.

D: When did you get married?

S: Oh I got married . . .thats a good question -

D: (Laughter)

S: I got married right after my father died. We will say 1937.

D: Did you have any children?

S: I had two. Two boys.

S: An amazing thing about marriage, if I may. . .my mother had three boys. And her sister. . .they were both married on the same day had three girls whose were six months of each others age. I mean that was a coincidence but, I have always remembered this. We kept touch through years

D: How did you meet your wife?

S: (Laughter) Do I have too? (Laughter) Well, I tell you. I was ah, ah, I would to you if it made that much difference. I was coming in from a party (I forget whether it was a company party, what they called a Christmas party the companies have today, you know) And, I wasn't feeling no pain; I wasn't feeling too good either. I recall going into a resturant to get me some food. A bowl of soup, I remember that well. What it was was chili. And, next thing I knew was a young lady at my head off the bowl of soup and had a towel, cloth, or something wiping the chili off my face. (Laughter) I can't help from remembering that. So we got acquainted.

D: (Laughter) She was wiping the chili?

S: She was wiping and I my head and went to sleep, fe l and and, and, and, and, and my bowl. . .my hand fell in the bowl of soup. Now, I don't recall whether it shattered the bowl (that ain't how I got the chili all over my face (Laughter) (Laughter).

D: Where was this?

S: Now, thats more difficult to remember.

D: I mean what city?

S: I was living in a small place (boarding there) . I worked on
the River Dam.

D: Maryland, thats a new one! (Laughter)

S: (Laughter) Well, that is where the famous pitcher was from
Lefty Groves of the Boston Red Socks. He was born there .
Thats where I was. Call it Conney.

D: You had two children. Where were they born?

S: One was born in Maryland and ah, it was both born in Maryland.
Because I had left and came back.

D: About what year were they born?

S: I had one born in ah,.....about the time Hitler advanced, '39. And
the other was ah, right. . .now let me. . .fall of '40. About a
year and a half difference in their age. Well, I know there is
a year and a half difference in the age, I'm trying to recall the
exact year. I use to have all that inofrmation but, I got ripped
off , here and ah, all my papers and everything I had was stolen
from me. So, I didn't rely on memory too much because I could pick
out what I wanted. The information from my records, but I don't
have those any more.

D: Alright. Around the time of Hitler and World War II what are your
rememberances of.....

S: Well, I was sort of concern because I was in ROTC, you see, and
field artillery. And, I knew I was going to be the first one, or
among the first. I wasn't worried. Now, both of my brothers
were already in the service at this time.

S: They volunteered in. Well, I did too. I mean it wasn't no question of being drafted for me; it was just the question of being called. Like, I had already served ah, at the University, you know, in the Rotc work and field artillery. And ah, I knew with what I had learned, what field experience we had I was subjected to make sense because they were calling up millions of them you know. And I went in and marched two days after my birthday in '42.

D: Where did you go while you were in there? What places?

S: Well, I was all over the eastern part of the United States in various training stages and then ah, when they finalized my commission they found out I was an engineer in school. I was in the field artillery school in Fort Bragg when the school commander called me up to his office and tole me, I was an engineer. Well, I though I was all the time. . .I was being there. And ah, he ah, asked me how I would like to have my commission in Washington, D. C. well, I had my salary and I close at home. Yes, sir! Why I didn't even know they were going to put me into combat engineers, you know. You didn't have to know too much about engineering in that. So, from there I changed. . .they changed me over . . . (I don't know whether they called it a transfer or what), any how I wound up in the Army Engineers.

D: Um, hum. So you spent a bit of time in Washington, while you were in the....

S: No, no! I thought I would be in Washington. I didn't....finish.

D: Um, hum.

S: I was thinking that, fast! while he was ah, telling me, or asking me if I would like to have my commission in Washington. But, I found out later that it would just be my outfit. The generals and everything would be based in Washington, but not me.

D: Um, hum. (Laughter)

S: I wound up in Europe. (Loud Laughter) So, he threw me a "curve."

D: Where in Europe were you?

S: Beg pardon.

D: Where in Europe?

S: I was all out in France and Germany, Australia, around.

D: What are your remembrances about those places?

S: Beg your pardon.

D: What are your remembrances about those places during this time of war?

S: Well, now I was a field man. I joined the army to see the world. In those days, you didn't see the world. . . you went through the world but, you didn't see much of it. Only on leaves, and I didn't many leaves.

D: Um, hum.

S: In fact, I was lucky to get paid once in a while because we were moving so fast! And, it was just a question of orientation, regrouping and ah, . . .well, if anybody understand the wars can understand what I'm talking about. "Moving on! Moving on!"
There was no time for play. Now we had ^{our} play, but it is a lot difference in what it is now.

S: I mean, we didn't have any clubs to go to and ah, anything to occupy us until after the war was over with. And, I stayed in two or three more years afterwards; it could have made it my career.

D: Um, hum. What year did you get out?

S: December, '48.

D: Okay, where were your family then?

S: They were in Maryland.

D: And, then you went back to Maryland.

S: When I come back, oh, yea. Um, hum. Ah,...

D: Go on.

S: Oh, well I was going to put a little delay into before I got back; I started to see some sites, you know. Before we came , on the ship coming back, our people but, we were coming in. And ah, . . .of course, we sort of delayed our arrival; we didn't give them any exact date when we were leaving cause we knew we were going to take in, like the New York sites and everything like that, in which we did. (Laughter) And ah, we enjoyed most of it. Looking back on it was better than home. We made it there two or three weeks later.

D: Um, hum. When you got back, what kind of job did you go into? Who did you work for once you got out of the service and back with your family?

S: I worked for a contracotr. I recall now, one of the contractoring were building a big plant in ah, Jennings, Maryland. We finished that. Well, in those days you didn't stay with the company unless

S: They released you then you were on your own. But again, I didn't have to much a problem. I had a lot of experience

And ah, I thought I'll go back South again and I've been down the South every since except the few four A's in the South. . . Well, that's South, South America. (Laughter) And, I went on one more tour; not in the service but as a construction engineer. That was part of their rebuilding program over there. Then, I came back and worked Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and southern Tennessee.

D: Where were you in the early '50s.

S: Well, I came into Mississippi from ah, Alabama. From Mobile Ala., on that job for the International Paper Company.

D: International Paper Company brought you to Mississippi.

S: Yea, they hired me in Alabama. That was their home office. It so happen that I was acquainted with ah, the vice-president in charge of construction in the International Paper Company, George Ward. He asked me what I was doing, I said, "I wasn't doing any planning while I was looking . I had been out of work for about a week. He said, "Well, you don't have to look no further, how would you like to work for me," just like that. He told me where it was and and went South and come back to Natchez.

D: Um, hum.

S: He stayed in Natchez; he wasn't into operation. But, I still had itchy feet, you know. I looked to see and I finally checked along with him.

D: How old were your children when you came to Natchez?

S: They were graduated and ah, starting families of their own; the oldest one in particular. The other one, delayed a little bit before he went to the University. He went to Georgia Tech. He got a scholarship there. And, the oldest boy graduated from ah, Tech, that's over from Maryland. He had a scholarship playing football.

D: Did they go into engineering too.

S: Naw. Ah, the youngest one. . .Yea, the youngest went into engineering. The oldest one. . .Yea, what's the matter with me! Chemical engineering. And you remember, when Castro took over Cuba and he cut off the water supply for . . .what is the name of that base?. . .Gua--- Guatomania.

S: Thank you. Well, my oldest son was on the De-Salting Water Program to refer some sea water for that base, Naval base. And from there, he was all over the world. As far as I know, today he still is. Well, I did see the youngest one about four years ago. And he's quit his engineering and gone into teaching at a college in Pennsylvania. He said, it was too much strain and stress from technicalities, I'm just going to take it easy and teach engineering." Somehow he got appointed and whatever procedures he had to go through with. He seems well satisfied.

D: Okay, so ah, they were born in. . .one was born in the late '30s the other around 1940.

S: Right.

D: So around 1954, they were in Junior High School maybe. Or Senior High School?

S: Senior High School.

D: Where did they go to Senior High School? Was it in the South?

S: Yes, the oldest one was with me. And, ah see, due to my travels, my wife would never accompany me because she had those boys to raise, which was good. And the consequent they didn't know too much of me, not as much as they should have known. But, as the oldest one got older he like I did with my father followed in my footsteps, which was all right I guess. But, the youngest one stayed with his mother. And in the meantime, she died. She died of mucous pneumonia; what they called it then--a form of cancer of the lungs, I believe--I'm not sure. But, when she died he was more or less able to be by himself. I mean in a sense from a financial viewpoint, although I was still available along those lines. Things were rather vague because of my moving so much and ah, and ah, when I worked on a job though my heart was sorbering on that job, really I put to much in it. But, I can't complain about the good works, success and ah, it's still happy-go-lucky, in a sense, sense.

D: I was trying to get to the Brown vs Topeka Case of 1954 in Topeka, Kansas. The case that ended the separate but equal thing, supposely by law. I was wondering whether or not your children were in school and what kind of an affect it had upon them.?

S: Your question does ring a bell with me on that ah, Topeka ...
not
it really doesn't. Are you on the ah, subject of racial

D: Um, hum. Racial Desegregation of the Schools.

S: Naw, but I can tell you my experience. . .I mean if you want too.

D: Yea.

S: Well, I was in business for myself in Florida.

D: Around what year was that?

S: Ah, middle fifties. And ah, I found five black. . .we didn't call them black then, we called them colored.....

D: Um, hum. Yea.

S: Black college graduates. Two were from northern Michigan State, and ah the University of Michigan, I believe. And one was from Minnesota; now, I'm not certain of that. But, all five of them and they couldn't get a job. And ah, I do not recall how it run across them but, anyhow I paid them more than the. . .a little bit more than the prevailing wage. And which is fairly but, I didn't care. I just wanted results and I had a good team.

D: What kind of work were you...

S: Oh, yea. I was in business for myself mostly ah, field work you know. Totalgraphical, ^{mosaic,} photography and ah,...

D: Well. How many people did you have employed?

S: Well, I really only had one crew steadily employed. for employment. Why ah you can always hire somebody, you know temporarily.

D: When you got to Jackson, Mississippi , what year was this?

S: You see, I came into Jackson really two times. When I left ah, Natchez, I came to Jackson. And established here and everything. But then, I left Jackson although I don't call Jackson my home; I still travel to Florida and around Louisiana. Thats where I started my big jobs in Louisiana, really in the mid fifties.

S: Well, 1957. I wasn't in business like going back to Florida too long down there, because I got into a little trouble down there. Ah, various reasons. I wasn't breaking any law really but, got a little difficulty so I rolled up my tent and ah, that was a good But now, I go to Louisiana I worked with Engineers then. I did about a half a billion dollars worth of work in Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Gramison and in between those I did also some other work for private engineers, you know in science. I was begining to get slack off. a little bit

D: But you did pretty good.

S: Well, yea (Laughter) when you work for a private outfit in field work, like you gonna draw the money you do in big ah, construction outfits. You get paid for the responsibilities that you had over you.

D: I need to get back to Jackson?

S: Yes, certainly.

D: I was trying to get to the year but that's alright now. What was your impression of Jackson, when you first came here?

S: I always did like Jackson.

D: Why? What

S: Clean. Well, I'm a layout man too, you know. I like the way it was laid out. Of course, I realize the old streets were rather narrow but, that was due to the coming age of the city at that time in that particular area. It was branched out, because I was on a lot of subdivisions layouts in and around Jackson.

D: Um, hum.

S: And ah, like EastOver, I helped on that (parts of it). Meadowbrook,
planned bridges, and
like that.

D: Um, hum.

S: Alexander, and whoever wanted the work done
in the hours available, why I did the work. (Laughter)

D: Where did you live when you first came to Jackson?

S:Oh! Do you know where Southern is now?

D: Um, hum-

S: We had a house right there where sits
on the corner of ah, Lamar. . .

D: Is it High?

S: Naw, not High.

D: Hamilton?

S: Hamilton! Hamilton! Right there, right there two stories. . .duplex.
And I know. . .when we (I forget that owned the
place. And he notified us that they were selling all them places
around that project they had been bought. Then we moved to Peabody.
Street. Thats out near Brown, down in that area Evergreen.
And we went from there to Forrest Hills and I've been there every
since. I retired on the Coast and came up. . .back up here and I
went back to Forrest Hills and stayed there. And, then thats
when my finances began to pinch. After I retired, I would have fought
harder to stay on if I had foreseen circumstances in the front of me
thats come in front of me now. But, I just didn't.

D: Um, hum. So, ah, when you were living on the corner of Larmar and Hamilton, you were close to the business district?

S: Oh, certainly.

D: Tell me about the business district when you were living there. What was it like, in terms of the more businesses, the different kinds of businesses that were down town?

S: Oh, they had very diversified businesses in that center of town. It was just anything you could think of. Capitol Street was well ah, ah established then, you know. That was right before the ah, trouble they had on Capitol Street. And huh, I thought it was remarkable the way Capitol. . . the city of Jackson was ever booming, still is! As far as that is concern, its wonderful!

D: Okay. Since you lived on the corner of Hamilton and Larmar, you were close to Farrish Street. What are your remembrances of Farrish when you first.....

S: Farrish Street....Oh, yea. Well, I remember getting my boots there on Farrish Street down there at ah,. . .
And ah, they were good boots. Field boots, you know. And ah, I did something else down there. . .Well, I wasn't . . .if they had anything in their advertisement that I wanted, I didn't care what it was. I mean there was no strain; and ah, it wasn't no fear. At least, I never thought it was, anyhow. And ah, I never did have a problem that, never did..None at all.

D: Well, ah do you remember any of the businessmen? On Farrish Street, black in particular?

S: I do. One of my faults I'm a poor person to remember names. But, I do remember a Taylor there on ah,. . . . I think he was on Mill Street.

- S: Anyhow, it was right in that area of Mill Street. I use to get all our there. And ah, I can't remember his name. He was a very nice man. He had a few hands working for him in there and he seemed alright with me. I had no problem with him.
- D: Okay, you mentioned of the trouble on ah, Capitol Street. What did you have reference to.
- S: Racial Trouble.
- D: What are your rememberances of that? That would be in the early sixties, right?
- S: Um, hum. Well, I just remember right after that I almost got
I remember the places of business, the boycotting by the Black and I foresaw what. . .I really did and I knew what was going to happen. But, I made no ah, ah, comments about it to anybody other than myself and a few friends I had. But ah, it didn't bother me one way or the other. When you know the end results and you know how its going to turn out---why worry about it. You can almost visualize how its going to turn out.
- D: Did any of this have an adverse affect on you?
- S: No, it sometimes it inconviences you sometimes when you had to go down. . .when you were in that area and wanted to get a noon meal or someplace and they are all closed. Thats the only inconviencence--- and I don't even call that a inconviencence. Cause we would go somewhere else and get some. (Laughter) I never punched a clock. (Laughter) I think that there were really problems arising that shouldn't have rose during that time. But, I think that was through misunderstanding mostly.
- D: When you were a child, let me go back.

- S: Oh, yeah! Going back and forth in time and space.
- D: Okay, when you were a child what are your remberances of race relations?
- S: Good. Good. Sure, I went to school with them.
- D: This was in Elkins?
- S: Sure. Now ah, let me clarify that--in Elkins they had a town a community really. It was a well-built town for most the ah, (Pop Fingers) well, I'm going to use the word Blacks. . .we didn't use Blacks then. Most Blacks lived and that was by choice. Although they worked in town. . .lot of them worked for. . .what do you call the people that made ah, is it household, ah what is the right work...
- D: Domestic work.
- S: Domestic. Thank you. the domestics come in town and worked and seemed glad to get home. There was no problem. They had ah, just as much trouble among the whites as they did with blacks as far as thats concern. I mean in stores, restuarants and things like that. (Cough) I didn't. . .it really wasn't ah, any thing to put in the headlines of the newspapers just as they do today.
- D: Well, I'm interested in the kinds of things you saw as a child as far as the race relations were concerned? Okay, as a child I guess in growing up all the way, do you recall any lynchings? Do you recall hearing about that kind of thing?
- S: What kind of thing?
- D: Lynchings.

S: Oh, lynchings.

D: Lynchings.

S: Oh, yea ah, naturally I recall since you brought it up. Ash, but they had no affect. . .I mean they were vague and huh you still didn't know whether they were truthful or not. I didn't read anything about them.

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