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CHARLOTTE NUNES: So, my name is Charlotte Nunes, and I'm joined here by Lillian Robinson, who's a project leader of this oral history project on migration from Cuthbert, Georgia, to Easton, Pennsylvania. We are here together today. Our interviewees are going to speaking about their life and experience in connection with African-American migration from Cuthbert to Easton for an oral history project as part of the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium. So, we thank you all for your willingness to share today, and we'll go around the table and have everyone state their full names and date of birth. And Mr. Houston, do you want to start?

BILL HOUSTON: Bill Houston, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1940.

ELIZABETH HOUSTON: My name is Elizabeth Houston, and I was born in May 1941.

KATHERINE BENTON: Katherine Benton, and I was born February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1950.

IRENE GILBERT: Irene Gilbert, and I was born September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1941 [1:00].

FULTON THORNTON: My name is Fulton Thornton, from Cuthbert, Georgia. My birthdate is May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1946.

CN: Okay. So, I think, to start, we'd like to have you all

kind of introduce yourselves a little more fully and talk just a bit about who you are, what your relationship is to Cuthbert, and we can kind of let the conversation roll from there.

BH: Okay. You want me to start off?

CN: Sure.

BH: Okay. Like I said, my name is Bill Houston, and I'm really from Quincy, Florida, which is about 90 miles south of Cuthbert, Georgia. And I arrived here in Easton in 1944, and I've been here ever since.

EH: Again, I was born May 1941. I came to Easton in 1956 to visit for the summer, and I came back in 1959 to live in Easton, Pennsylvania, and [2:00] I raised my family here in Easton, Pennsylvania.

KB: Katherine Benton. I was born in Cuthbert, Georgia, on the Wade plantation farm out in Benevolence. And I have been in Easton off and on since I was two years old, and I finally stayed here when I was eight years old and went to school.

IG: And my name is Irene Gilbert, and I was born in Easton, a little suburb of Easton, actually. Easton Hospital was in Wilson, PA. My parents were from -- both of them were from Cuthbert, Georgia, and I went one time, I was told, when I was three, but no matter what happened or who died, my

parents never took us -- my sister [3:00] was six at the time, and my parents never would take us back down there. And I finally figured it out, and they did not want us to see drinking fountains that said "black" and that said "white". They didn't want us to see -- to have people hollering at us because we were black. And so, whenever emergencies were, or they went on vacation, they just went back down, but they never would take us back down after I was three years old and my sister, six.

FT: My name is Fulton Thornton, and I was born outside of Cuthbert, Georgia, on my grandfather's and father's farm. When I was born, we were large landowners. When I was born in 1946, my father and grandfather owned 500 acres of land. We farmed that land along with [unintelligible] having other farmers [4:00] sharecropping on his property. We also had a home in Cuthbert, Georgia. We did not move into Cuthbert, Georgia, until my two older brothers didn't have enough days in school to pass. That's when my father said, "[You know what?]? No more of this. We're not farming anymore," because we were farming with mules and wagons, and it took a long time to do 5, 10, 20, 40, 50, or 100 acres of land. He said, "That's the end of that." So, we moved into our home inside the city limits of Cuthbert, Georgia. That's where I graduated in 1964. I was an

activist; I helped start the first NAACP in Cuthbert, Georgia, which a lot of young blacks weren't on board [5:00] with that. The [few of us?] working under a guy by the name of Mr. Davis -- we managed to do quite a few things in Cuthbert, got some things accomplished. But when I graduated, I remember, you know, like the white officials coming to my dad and saying, "He's not a kid anymore. He can't live here anymore. He has to leave." I wound up in Pittsburgh. That's where my dad's brother was, which had migrated, you know, like, from Cuthbert to Pittsburgh because of, you know, like, Pittsburgh Steel and all the work in the foundries, which we'll get to all of that, you know, like, with Easton and [duxom?] steel and all of that coming up later. I went to school -- community college -- out there. Upon graduation, I went to a place called Pittsburgh Plate and Glass for a job. I didn't get the job there, but [6:00] there was a guy that had a laboratory here in Stockertown, Pennsylvania, by the name of Mr. [Neff?]. The company name was Neff Laboratories. He hired me and brought me back here. That's how I wound up here in Easton. At that time, I didn't even know all of the people that I grew up with and knew were here in Easton, Pennsylvania.

CN: Well, that's actually a good segue. [Maybe?] we could hear

from the group about what brought your families to Easton.

BH: Well, like I said, I'm originally from Quincy, Florida, which is just 90 miles south of Cuthbert, Georgia, and back in 1944, my dad wanted to get out of the South because of all the segregation and things that were going on down there. So, he had a job in Connecticut -- it was Hartford, Connecticut -- and we were on our way up to Hartford, Connecticut, and for some reason, we stopped in Easton [7:00] for a couple days, and he got a job in the iron foundry. You know, this was in World War II, 1944, so they were hiring, and he started working in the foundry. So, he decided to stay -- you know, to keep us right here in Easton. So, really, I'm here by accident, 1944, and I've been here ever since. (laughs)

EH: I came to Easton in 1956 for a visit. I was in 11th grade. I came here because my brother and his family had moved here, and also, I had two sisters living here that migrated here as well. So, I came to visit, and then I went back home, and I finished my education at Randolph High School. When I graduated from high school, I came back to Easton, and I got a job, and I went to work. And I lived here, [8:00] and the rest is history.

KB: Again, I came to Easton when I was very young, from the time I was two years old. My mother had migrated here

because she needed to work. And between Easton and Trenton and going back to Cuthbert, I lived in Easton from the time I was eight years till now. When I was five years old, I went to kindergarten at Taylor School down on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Easton. So, I went to kindergarten there, but I went back to Georgia, and I went the first, second, and third -- part of third grade in Cuthbert, and then I came up here, and I've been here ever since in Easton, since I was eight years old. And my mom's brother, [9:00] Uncle [Saul?], had moved here because he had gotten married and moved here to do a better life, because work was very [scarce?]. There was no factory work in Cuthbert. You either were a farmer, or you did moonshining, which was one of the things that they did down there. They had moonshiners. And so, my mom didn't want to do any of that, so she came up here, and she got a job at [Tulsa?], which was down in Little Washington, New Jersey.

IG: The reason why my parents came was the first person that they knew that came here was a lady named [Lula Knighton?], and Miss [Lou?] came -- it had to be late '30s, and she got work as a domestic. I don't know if she had her son at that time. I'm not sure. But anyway, [10:00] so then she invited her brother, told her brother to come. Her brother's name was [James Boise Knighton?], and we used to

call him Uncle Jimbo. And Uncle Jimbo came, and they didn't come directly to Easton; they lived in Bethlehem at that time, and what they did was they worked at Bethlehem Steel, because that was the call. That was the clarion call, I guess you would say, for a lot of black people that came from down south. It was Pittsburgh Steel or Bethlehem Steel. So, anyway, Uncle Jimbo came. Uncle Jimbo happened to have married my dad's sister. Okay? So, Aunt Lou and Uncle Jimbo said, "Come on up here, [Jule?]." That's my dad, Jule Gilbert. And so, he came up, got on right away with Bethlehem Steel [11:00]. His brother-in-law, who -- my uncle [Adel Williams?] -- had married my mom's sister, [Anna Laura Barry Williams?], and -- because my mom's maiden name was Barry. So, he had been up here first. He came up following Uncle Jimbo's advice first. So, he was already at Bethlehem Steel, and then my dad came up. Uncle Adel had a specialized job, which was unusual for somebody black, but you figure it was wartime, just beginning wartime, so they, you know, cut some slack. And my dad got on as a just plain laborer, which was changed later on. But that was the impetus, and then, like, everybody that was in that circle of family started coming.

CN: [12:00] Okay. Was there anything you wanted to add, Mr. Thornton?

FT: Well, I can add a little bit onto that. Like I said, I didn't know all of these people that I knew from Cuthbert, and some that I'm related to through marriage. When I finally [unintelligible] came down from Stockertown to Easton, I couldn't find an apartment, and I had a brother here that had gotten transferred from Pittsburgh to Ingersoll Rand, which is part of Chemtron Pump Division, and that's where he worked. Well, we couldn't get an apartment because they weren't giving any young black males apartments. We wound up living at the YMCA on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Easton for about three years until -- you know, like, we went to Human Relations and finally got, you know, like, an apartment on College Hill, where I still live. Well, the draft occurred at that time. We both got drafted. I got drafted [13:00] in 1968, September 9th. Well, I left and went into the military, went to OCS, but I wouldn't take the other six years in order to become an officer, because I did not want to be a second lieutenant and get sent off to Vietnam and carry somebody else's kids over there and fight a war that I did not know how to fight. So, I wound up, you know, like, going to Germany, which I did have to take the transport plane into Vietnam, pick up bodies, and drop off supplies, and come back. Well, I was in Germany for three years. When I finally came back to Easton, we

wound up, you know, like, getting another apartment on College Hill, right across from Lafayette College. That's when I went to Allentown Barber College, which was in Allentown; I went to Empire Beauty School; I opened my first business at 511 Northampton Street in Easton, Pennsylvania [14:00]. At that time, I think I remember there were four other black businesses. There was Mr. [Bright?], who had Mr. Bright's Market; the [Swint's?], who had, you know, like, [garbage?] business, and one of the Swint brothers --

KB: Tobias.

FT: Tobias had a business right next door to me that was --

KB: Swint's [used?] [unintelligible]?

FT: Yeah, Swint's used furniture right back there. It was right next door to my business on Northampton Street. Then [Lee Harris?] -- he opened a clothing store right at 16 Northampton Street, only two doors down from me, and etc. When I came back to take my job at Neff Laboratories, [15:00] I had brought my oldest brother up here, because he was an electrician, because we needed an electrician out in the plant. While I was in Germany, someone in the lab that I worked in sent out the wrong formula out to the mill, and when you're talking about a mill that's as big as -- wide as this room and stuff here, there was an explosion. Five

people got killed. This is why [Clarence?] looks the way he looks today, because he had just left that mill that exploded and was going back out to the electrician plant, which was across the parking lot from where the plant was. It hit him in the back and blew him, you know, like, out the door, across the parking lot, and etc. Clarence spent a year and a half in Easton Hospital in the burn unit, face down, suspended, because chemical burns don't stop burning. That's why he has no hair or anything on his head today [16:00]. My mom was up her for that whole time. When I got back, she said, "You are not going back to work there." That's when I went to UGI Corporation. Well, I was there for two years. Affirmative action came about. A lady by the name of [Liz Lane?] came along and said, "They do not have any black executives working in the biggest company in Allentown, Pennsylvania," which was Pennsylvania Power and Light, a 23-story-high building. I was recruited, you know, like, to go there in order to, you know, like, show the people in Allentown that blacks could work around people that came out of Harvard, Lehigh, Yale, Penn State, and etc., because that's where most -- all of the, you know, like, engineers that I worked with were from. At that time, there was only eight of us that worked in the tower [17:00] building. Since that time, we've brought in

about 25 or 30 others. Now that I'm retired, that number has dropped down to six.

IG: Wow.

FT: And the stock at Pennsylvania Power and Light dropped from \$64 a share down to \$12 a share.

BH: Well, I had kind of a disadvantage when I moved to Easton, because there were only two in our family, my brother and myself (laughs). Just two boys, and we didn't know anybody. And I remember Jule and Jimbo --

FT: That's my uncle.

BH: Yeah. Because Jule Knighton and the boy -- we became close friends. There were three guys that, when we got to Pennsylvania, we hooked up with: Jule Knighton, [Bobby and John Thomas?], two Lebanese boys, you know. We're still friends today. But we were always at a disadvantage because we didn't have any relatives, see, and we lived in a place called [Hall's Court?], [18:00] right down on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in a couple alleys at a factory. You had to go through an alley to an alley to get to my house.

(laughter) [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: Yeah, that was Hall's Court. But you know, one thing about Hall's Court, it was a -- and as I get older, I realize it was a beautiful, beautiful neighborhood, because it was fairly integrated. You had Jewish kids, Chinese kids,

Lebanese kids, Italian kids, poor white kids, and a few black folks.

IG: [On West Street, too?].

BH: Right, on West -- 40 yards up was West Street, where all the blacks were, see. But we got here late, so we were down on Hall's Court, which was really a nice place to be, and I didn't realize that until I got to be an old man, how much of an education that was, because you learned how to get along with people from different backgrounds.

IG: Everybody.

BH: And those people today are my friends. They're my friends. I grew up with them, played sports with them, went through school [19:00], and everything. Well, one disadvantage we did have, Irene -- when we were in school, usually Irene and I were the only blacks. Two blacks all the way through high school. We didn't have a whole bunch of blacks, you know, and many times, you know, that was a disadvantage, see, in various ways, you see. But as you get older, you look back, and I say, "Thank you for Hall's Court," because I learned -- it taught me how to get along with people and not to be afraid of different people because of the color of their skin color, or maybe they have a little more money than you have, or what else, see. And Hall's Court was a good place to live, right off of Lehigh Street.

IG: I remember when I came to Easton and really remember when I was in school. We lived on West Street, and it was blacks on West Street, but down another block, it was blacks and whites, and then there was the Lebanese, and the Italians lived on the other side of us [20:00] down the street coming up Washington Street hill. And it was so different, because when I was in Georgia it was all the time we had this -- you've got to say, "Yes, ma'am; no, ma'am." If I could tell you how many times from coming up here and going back there, I would forget to say "yes, ma'am" to a white person, because if you didn't, your -- my grandmother slapped me in my mouth. "Say yes, ma'am." Because I would say, "Yes," because that's what I said up here. I would just say, "Yeah; no," you know. But if I had to speak to a white person in Cuthbert, it had to be "yes, ma'am; no, ma'am." And I can remember going into a little store, and my grandmother -- the lady said to my mom -- because I said to the lady, "Yes," and the white lady said to my grandmother, "You'd better teach this girl how to speak right." And my grandmother slapped me in the mouth and made me say, "Yes, ma'am." [21:00] And if we were walking down the sidewalk in Cuthbert, we had to move over and let the white people come past. That's just the way it was. And it was confusing, because it was so different up here,

and that's why I liked it up here, because I didn't have to say "yes, ma'am" and "no, ma'am."

BH: You did feel that pressure when you went back down south --

IG: Yes.

BH: -- to visit your relatives. Now, where I lived in Hall's Court, I was probably one of the luckiest young men alive, because -- and I didn't realize it then, because I had an elderly lady that lived in the apartment above us named Mrs. [Hetty Goode?]. She was born right before the Civil War, see. This was in 1944, so she was way up there, but she was articulate, she read the newspapers, and she knew what was going on, you know, even though she was elderly. And she would tell me about Civil War battles, Indian battles, a lot of racism stories, because [22:00] when my mother and dad went to the grocery store or somewhere, she would babysit for me, you know. I would go up there and sit, and she would start telling me these stories, what it was really like during the Civil War, because one of her relatives got killed down in Dade County battlefield in Florida, see. I saw his name on the wall one time when we visited the museum. So, by the time I got to third or fourth grade, I knew about the Civil War. I knew all about prejudice because this lady was there. She used to tell me what it was like. And I'll never forget the first time we

went back down south for my grandmother's funeral, I think, in 1947, and went down with my uncle [Jesse?], because he was the only one going down that had a car. And we stopped somewhere in Maryland, and I had to go to the bathroom. So, I jumped out of the car, and I was going to go right in the front. I'll never forget it. My uncle Jesse grabbed me like this. He said, "No, you have to go in the back." And I remember that. I'm an old man now, but I remember that today, you know, how that felt [23:00]. It was an awful feeling. "You have to go in the back." Now, one other instance that happened way back in 1944 -- I'll never forget it -- right here in Easton, right in front of the [Moose Hall?]. I don't know if you know where the Moose Hall is. After the war was over, you know, we were marching. "The war is over; the war is over!" And there was a line of kids marching, and if they marched well, they would give them a hat and cowboy boots, see, and [unintelligible] (laughs). And I wanted that hat and those cowboy boots, so I turned to my mother, and I said, "Can I get under the rope and march?" because a friend of mine named [Aaron Goode?] -- okay, he was marching, see. But Aaron Goode was light, bright, damn near white, and -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: -- they didn't know that he was a black guy. So, Aaron was

marching, and lo and behold, he got his boots and was up on the top. You know, just showed off his boots and stuff. And I got underneath, [24:00] and I was marching, I was marching up and down, up and down, and by the third time coming back up, I felt this [shoulder again?]. Tap, tap, tap. The guy said, "No colored people are allowed to march here." And that was in 1944 -- 1945, when the war was over. I'll never forget that. Right in front of the Moose. And even today, when I go past that Moose, I'm reminded of that.

KB: Yeah.

BH: So, that hurts. That hurts. And that was just one experience. I could tell you 50 different stories, but we don't have the time for that, it would hog up all the time (laughs).

CN: What others of you -- do you have sort of vivid memories from childhood?

IG: I have one, but it's not from childhood. It was when I was in my thirties, and it relates to Easton prejudice. I had just come home from California in 1980 [25:00], and I had rented this house on Walnut Street, 659 Walnut Street. And having come from California and the Bay Area, and then coming back to Easton, it was so boring. This one Saturday, I just said, "I just want to be me," and so I

just got all dressed up. My hair was done; I had on this super-bad T-shirt and these really great jeans and my cowboy boots -- cowgirl boots, right? And my beautiful coat. And I just was walking downtown from Walnut Street to downtown. So, by the time I got to the corner of Fourth and Northampton Street, Mr. [Kaiser?], who was one of the people [26:00] -- one of the really light intermixed people, one of the original black residents in Easton, maybe coming from a freeman background -- he was standing on the corner talking to New York -- not New York [Taylor?]. Who owns [the new shop]?

BH: Oh --

IG: [Mike Casano?].

BH: -- Mike Casano.

IG: Yeah, old Mr. Casano, Mike's dad. We went to school with Mike; that's how we know him. But anyway, it was Mr. Kaiser, who was, like, maybe in his sixties, I guess, at that time, sixties or seventies, and Mike Casano's dad, who was my landlord. So, I was standing there on the corner with them, talking for a while anyway, and then I went across the street where [Segal's?] is now, and it was back then, too, a dress store. I'm standing there, looking in the window [27:00], and up pulls a car, and these two big, giant German-bred women with rifles and a German shepherd

parked and were -- they got out of the car. And I was looking in the window, and they were right behind me. And as I looked in the window, you know, I could see them. I didn't turn around. I just said, "I was born here, I came back here, I don't have anywhere else to go, and I'm not leaving." Because they thought that -- and that's the second time that that happened. It happened another time after that. But they thought that I was going to be whoring [28:00] or prostituting or something. You just couldn't look good in Easton. In the '60s, '70s, '80s, you know, you couldn't look good, and that was the problem with Easton, you know. I just said it, because I was determined. "So, kill me." And so, they got back in the car with their German shepherd and the rifles, rifles! Big, giant German women. You could tell, you know. You knew what they were. And of course, you know, some people didn't believe you, you know. I only told my sister and, I think, a few other people, but they didn't really believe me. But that happened, and I was like, "Man, you can't even dress" -- and it happened one other time that was in the '80s, too, when, again, I [29:00] just said, "Oh, for crying out loud, I just want to get" -- you know, you just want to wear your pretty clothes, and you want to just be you. And I was on Delaware Drive; at the time, I had just

walked from Delaware Drive downtown, you know, which is, you know, like, what? Maybe seven blocks or something like that, right? And I just looked sharp. I just put on some of my California clothes, and I just looked sharp. And I was just breezing along, and do you know that a police car slowly -- when I hit 3<sup>rd</sup> Street -- yeah, I was walking up 3<sup>rd</sup> Street towards the circle. This police car -- he just dogged me right past the Y and all the way up to the circle. And I was like, "Forget it." You know? After that, I don't think I even tried to, like, you know -- I mean, it just took the joy from it, and for a long time unless -- that's why I always said, "I've got to be [protected?]" when I was younger, you know. It was like -- [30:00] and really super-sharp and all that stuff, trying to be super-sharp. And I just said, "I'm not going anywhere trying to look really sharp unless I'm protected. I've got my guy right there with me so that there isn't any funny business. Nobody's going to mess with me." Just awful. And that was here. Yeah, I missed the white and black -- colored -- you know, drinking water signs, but, boy, I caught it up here.

EH: Well, I have a totally different perspective. I went to a one-room school. One room --

FT: Yes.

EH: -- for two years, my first and second grades. I guess I was this kind of isolation [unintelligible] the way you guys said. I was in isolation, but in a way, it was a good thing for me, because I didn't see any of this [unintelligible], as [31:00] much bigotry, because I was raised in isolation. My first two years, I went to a one-room school, and then they changed that law. They had to close that school, so -- but I lived in the country. I didn't tell that. My dad was a farmer. He was a farmer, and we lived on a farm. And when they closed that school, they had to put buses in for us. So, we lived about 45 minutes, I guess, from the city in the country, so buses came to pick us up to take us to school downtown. Totally black school. So, from third grade to my senior -- when I graduated -- I was in a totally black school. My dad protected us. There were certain things we couldn't do. I stayed in the black world. The only time I got [32:00] bothered by the white race was when I went downtown, and I [didn't?] do that often. My mother was a writer. She wrote letters all the time, so my job was to go to the post office, get stamps, and come back and give them to her so she could write her letters. So, on this particular trip that I had to take, I had to go through a white college down there occasionally unless I went around the other way,

but in my route, I often got Caucasians driving by and calling me the N-word, you know, and throwing things occasionally. But it never bothered me, because I knew who I was, and I knew where I was going, so that's why I did. So, I kind of missed all of that, you know, that the black -- and my dad didn't want us to go to Caucasian people to work. We couldn't babysit [33:00] for them or anything. So, I was just totally -- as my brother would say, I was just totally naïve, so I missed all of that. So, when I came to Easton, I came -- my brother was here, and his wife and five or six children, however many he had. I was still surrounded by my kind of people, so I never had that either. So, when I got a job, luckily -- well, "blessed", I should say -- I had jobs where people were nice to me. They taught me. I worked in textiles for a while. I just happened to enjoy that because I was taught dressmaking in school. We took home economics, so we were taught to be -- to sew and all that. So, I enjoyed that. I did that a couple years, then I got a job at [Tongso?] making a lot of money, but I hated it. [It was a time working more?] -- it was [a line?] [34:00]. You had to put out so much work, you know, and that -- I wasn't used to that. I'm a slow person [in my elements], with my people. So, I never had to worry with that. And then I got a job in the school

district, and the lady I worked with was so nice to me. I thank God for her today that she encouraged me. She told me, "Liz, you are good with the children. You need to go back to school. Go to college to get your degree." So, I did that. The only time I came into conflict -- when my husband and I got married, we looked for an apartment, and we couldn't find anything because they wouldn't rent to us.

BH: Big vacancy sign up there. (agreement)

BH: Thirty-five we went to. [unintelligible].

EH: So, anyway, that's the only time, but fortunately, I was married to him, so he took the brunt of that [35:00], so it really didn't affect me that much, you know. So, again, after we got the apartment, then we had two children, so we needed a house. An apartment was too small after we finally got one on Spring [Bond?] Street or somewhere at the end of the block, but that's neither here or there. But then we decided we wanted to [build?] a house. Well, we couldn't buy. They wouldn't sell us a house either. It was the same thing. We went, and they told us the price of a house. It was astronomical, but my husband knew people that would go and see if they could get the house. That happened to be Caucasian, and when they went, the house was much more -- much cheaper, of course, than what they did. So, we couldn't buy a house, so we had to end up building

one. And come to find out, all this meant we were the first people that ever built -- blacks that ever built a house in the city, and that's the way we had to do it. So, I really missed a lot of prejudice, [36:00] and what -- I was blessed to be in contact with people that were nice to me. I guess God was just watching over me, I know, [to be blessed?]. So, that's how we got by. My husband teased me because in my class of graduation there were only 45 of us, so that was funny to him, of course. And [unintelligible] we lived in Cuthbert, there was only one red light. That's all that's in the city. One.

IG: And they just got that. (laughter) Not too long ago.

EH: And so, I just kind of grew up in isolation, and like they tell me now, I'm naïve. I don't believe people are as bad as some people they are, or I'm just too naïve to know the difference.

EN: Yeah, then Kat, and then Mr. Thornton, too, if you guys have also those sorts of childhood memories of -- like, a vivid childhood memory of Cuthbert.

KB: Yeah.

FT: Oh, you want [unintelligible] [37:00]. I got a whole lot in Cuthbert, because people don't really know that -- like I told you, I was an activist from the time I was in eighth or ninth grade through. I knew Mr. King personally. My

best friend and I used to travel from Cuthbert, Georgia, to Atlanta, because, you know, like, my principal, Dr.

[Grant?] -- he was a minister. We moved [money?] and literature through Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia for [unintelligible] set up for these movements and rallies. A lot of folks didn't know that a lot of white people were behind the movement. That's where, you know, like, a lot of the money comes from. I can remember going into a bank, and I was so scared. The lady gave me the money; I walked out of the bank and left \$30,000 [38:00] laying on the counter --

IG: Oh, no.

FT: -- that was supposed to be funds to set up one of the rallies in Alabama. This guy that I'm going to talk about, Winfred Rembert that I told Ms. Robinson about -- once you pull that up, and you can see for yourself -- he got arrested in 1960 in Americus, Georgia. We thought he was dead. I did not see him until about eight years ago. Here come [the flying?] out. We always had an escape route when we did our marches and stuff like that, because we knew the Klan or somebody was going to come. When they came, he ran the wrong way, and [unintelligible] tell you down south people were very friendly. They never took the car keys out of their cars [39:00] or anything like that, overnight

or anything. So, he was running down the street, he sees a car, and the keys are in it. He jumps in the car and takes off running. Well, they finally caught him, and they put him in jail in Americus, Georgia. When they came that night to take him out, they were going to castrate him. Well, he wound up beating up two of the deputy sheriffs, locking them up in the little jail cell, and ran again. Well, he wound up being on the chain gang, building roads throughout the countryside and etc. until 2011. President Carter and Mrs. Carter are the ones that, you know, like, fought in order to get him released, and you'll see all of this on that video. You'll see him with Mrs. Carter, President Carter, and my cousins that live down on [40:00] Villanova Street, Robert Carter and [unintelligible] Carter's mother and father. Well, we're all related to the Carters because they're from right up the road from there in Georgia. They were peanut farmers just like we were.

KB: Plains.

FT: From Plains, Georgia.

EH: This is [unintelligible]. You're related to the Carters, you say? My mother was a Carter.

FT: Yes, we're all related. I just visited you all's home over there in Eufaula, Alabama. [Laurie Ann?] and I go there every year.

EH: [unintelligible] --

FT: Historical. The one that's in the movie [unintelligible].

EH: We'll talk later.

FT: [unintelligible]. We'll talk about all that later.

(laughter)

EH: We'll talk later.

FT: It's been in the movies.

EH: We'll talk later.

FT: About all of that. But, yes, you're going to see, you know, like, pictures of, you know, like, Winfred Rembert, President Carter, Mrs. Carter, and my cousin Robert Carter and his wife. They go around the country to all of the top museums and stuff like that. They just had over \$2 million worth of artwork down at the University of Alabama. Now, [41:00] my cousin lives in Albany, Georgia. Winfred is up here in Boston, Massachusetts, where he's still working. Well, while he was in prison, he became a leather artist, because that's what they did back then. They shined shoes, worked with leather, built saddles, and all of that stuff for the farmers for the horses and all of that good stuff like that, and he's very good at it. And you'll see all of this stuff.

KB: Tell me about [Peter Hudson?].

FT: Well, I'll get to that later on, but I want to talk about,

you know, like, this Alabama thing and Martin Luther King. You know where Eufaula is? They used to have bass fishing like they have down here. Well, they built, you know, like, right there over on the Eufaula side -- they built [leeches?] into the embankment over the river, and stuff like that.

KB: [unintelligible] (laughs).

FT: All right? They built a big old round platform where the news people [42:00] used to come from all over the world and film all of this stuff. Well, if we wanted to go and see the bass tournament, we had to stand over on the opposite side of Route 82 from where the hotels were and all of them were at. Well, we marched on it one day. Trying to get away, I got caught on the bridge. When they caught me, I was down on the ground. The Alabama State Police and the Georgia State Police -- they argued over who was going to have the rights to my body, because, you know, like, the Georgia and the Alabama state line is in the middle of that river, the Chattahoochee River. Okay?

EH: Yeah, next to [unintelligible].

FT: It just so happened that most of my body was in Georgia. So, now, the closest town is Georgetown, so they take me to Georgetown, [43:00] and they lock me up. When I get there, they're talking about "well, where we are going to lock him

up at? We don't have a jail." And one of those rednecks said, "We've got that hog pen out there." They locked me up in that hog pen with the hogs and all of that stuff until, you know, like, [unintelligible] (laughs) [unintelligible]. They had to walk to Georgetown and hitch a ride back to Cuthbert to get my dad before they came back and got me out and let me out of that hog pen. Now, understand the Masons, which nobody up here likes, but the Masons had a lot of power in the South. My dad was 33rd degree. I heard him when he got there. They were yelling at him, and he said [one word?]. "I don't have a word to say until you all get my son out of that hog pen." And they have certain [44:00] signs that they use. You know what I mean?

KB: Yeah.

FT: I'm a Mason, too, but I can't show any of them to you (laughs).

KB: Yeah.

FT: [unintelligible] because you've got to read the [blue book?] in order to, you know, like, know all of that stuff. A lot of the white people are Masons today, too, and they respect that. And when they did those signs and stuff like that, you know, like, the next thing I know, you know, like, the door was being opened, and I was being let out of

there and etc. But getting back to Martin Luther King's house, if you go to visit his house right now, the bedroom served as his office and the bedroom. There's a little homemade wicker chair that's still sitting right outside, you know, like, the bedroom. When we went there, we had to wait there until, you know, like, we were called in for him to talk to us and to tell us, you know, like, where we were going to go and etc. Now, [45:00] we're in Atlanta. We couldn't stay in the hotels back then.

KB: [Could I, too?]?

IG: Yes.

FT: Morris Brown and Spelman. Dr. Grant had two daughters; one was at Spelman, and one was at Morris Brown. We used to, you know, like, go stay in their rooms. They would go stay with their friends and stuff like that, and that's where we spent the night when we were in Atlanta back in the '60s. The church that got bombed in Alabama -- I've been there before. There's a little church in -- you know where Sasser is? I was there, and they bombed and burned that church down to the ground.

IG: That's Medgar Evers' [unintelligible]?

EH: [unintelligible].

FT: This is down in Sasser, Georgia.

EH: Sasser?

FT: Yeah, right outside of Dawson on 82. Right up the road [46:00] there, people won't tell anybody, but that's where, you know, like, the [unintelligible]'s farm is. They've got a 500-acre farm there that they're still growing all of their [bees?] and everything right there. But they've got one little sign there, a little wooden sign. If you're going too fast, you'll miss it. But it's back there off in the woods in Terrell County. [unintelligible] --

CN: I want to hear from Ms. Benton, too, [unintelligible].

FT: Okay.

CN: I know you've told us you've got some vivid memories from Cuthbert as a child as well.

KB: Oh, yeah. I was telling the story before, and I meant to look it up to see exactly when the movie Cinderella came out, or it had been out and finally got to Cuthbert.

BH: '46, '47.

KB: I don't know --

BH: Yeah, [unintelligible] movie [unintelligible].

KB: The first time --

BH: [unintelligible].

KB: Okay. I saw it the first time, and we went to the movie theater, [47:00] and I couldn't remember whether we were upstairs or down.

FT: Well, if it was back then, you were upstairs. [overlapping

dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: I can tell you that right now. That's why we closed it.

KN: Yeah. So, we were upstairs, and I remember going to see that movie, Cinderella. And you know, it was just -- it was amazing, and I just loved, you know, the movie and all of that. But I remember Saturday was the big time in Cuthbert. If you lived out -- you went uptown, you went shopping, and, you know, like I said, you had to move across. And I can remember having -- wanting a drink of water and couldn't get it out of the fountain. I had to go the colored one. My grandmother snatched me back, because the fountains were here, and they were like, "You can't do that." If you even dared sit in the circle, you had to move for somebody white to [48:00] -- so that they could sit, because you couldn't sit near them, so you had to get up and get the seat away. I don't ever remember sitting in the circle. I went down in 2014; I went back to Cuthbert for the first time since '98, and I took a video of the circle coming in, because it looks the same, but it's so much nicer. And just so you get a little perspective of Cuthbert, the -- in the circle was where the police station was, and it's about as big as this table. And if I'm not mistaken, because I never asked anyone, it's -- what's in that little box that they have there now, [first?]?

EH: It's [unintelligible].

KB: Yeah, because then they --

FT: The police station is not in the circle anymore.

KB: Okay.

EH: [unintelligible].

KB: But I remember it being in the -- because that's where everything happened. And everybody -- white, black [49:00], whatever -- if you lived out on the outskirts of Cuthbert, you came into town on Saturday, and that was the big day, and it was like going to church. And living down south, we lived in Cuthbert the most that I remember, and we went to church in Benevolence, which was about 13 miles, maybe 20 miles. I don't know how many miles it was from Cuthbert. But we didn't have a car, so we went on the wagon. We used to have to go on the wagon, because my grandfather was a farmer -- "sharecropper", they called him -- and they had -- my uncles had gone away to the service, and they sent money back home for my grandmother and grandfather to buy a house. And that was the sole purpose, because there was no work for them to do there, so they went in the Army, and they sent a lot [in terms?] for them to live on, and they bought a house and moved into Cuthbert. And [50:00] so, we would have to go, and back then, back in those days, if you were in Benevolence, you

couldn't do anything on Sunday. Sunday was the holy day. You couldn't sew. If you had a, you know, tear, or your hem came out of your dress, you had to put a straw in your mouth in order for them to hem your dress. And the food was cooked, and you'd go to church, and you'd have all kinds of food -- picnics with the people from church. But cooking was done on Saturday. You did nothing on Sunday but worship the Lord --

FT: That was the Sabbath day.

KB: -- and that's the way it was down there. And it was really different than when I came here, because no stores were open on Sunday. You come here; there weren't too many stores open here, but there were some stores open. Down there, the only thing we did -- and I have to tell you this [unintelligible] when I got older, and we went back down and visited -- that changed, because, like, when I was, like, maybe 11 or 12, we went back down, [51:00] and on Sunday night you always went down to the juke joints down there (laughs). They had the little sweet shop that you could go to on Sundays, and you could dance at night, but it had to be after sunset (laughs). So, I can remember going into, like, the sweet shops, they were called then, and you would dance [unintelligible].

EH: I feel like I've got to confess my hometown (laughs).

FT: Me too. I was just going to say we had a little bit more  
[unintelligible] --[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

EH: I [unintelligible] all of this was a survival [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible].

EH: This is why I was not traumatized by the way things were,  
because I -- we were protected. My father just protected  
us. I can remember the fear factor my father taught my  
brothers. I have six brothers, and there was a fear  
factor. They taught them that so that they would be  
protected, [52:00] and that fear in them kept them from  
doing things that would get them in trouble.

FT: [Exactly?].

EH: So, I think that's how we survived. So, I don't think they  
wanted to do -- live that way, but that's the only way they  
knew that they could survive, because I did hear things  
that went on. I heard of the lynchings and the killings  
and the -- I guess you heard the first black lady was  
killed -- what do you call it?

BH: Electrocuted?

EH: Electrocuted, because she was defending herself when a  
Caucasian man was abusing her. But I never thought of it -  
- I didn't live in fear, you know. I guess you would call  
it reverence. I just lived in reverence to know that there  
were certain things you didn't do, and by not knowing the

difference, I thought it was the right thing to do, and so that's how I survived through it, you know. So, that's why I said I feel like I'm [defending?], you know... But there are [53:00] things, too, that you knew you just didn't talk to older people about. Like, [unintelligible] our school, they always said "equal but separate", and that was the biggest lie ever told, because our school was not equal to the white. They had gyms and [unintelligible]. We had to play basketball on the ground.

FT: Right.

EH: We didn't have books, new books. We had to use the old books that they sent over to us. I mean, I wasn't naïve either, but I didn't let that trouble me to the extent that it would affect my life, is what I'm trying to say. But I even remember as a little child going out in the woods, and they showed me how the black people had to [slip?] and go to school. My dad only went to third grade. His grandmother was raped, and his mother was a product of rape, [54:00] you know. But anyway, I remember going out in the woods to see the school, and they had two trees that had been sawed down, and they had a log across to rest on this one and the one on that side, and that was their school. That's how they went to school. They sat on that log.

FT: Bench.

EH: And the teacher taught them, those that could, and that's how they went to school. But it didn't leave me bitter, you know, so...

KB: One of the things that I remember going to school there -- we lived on Morgan Street. We lived at 314 Morgan Street. That's the house that my grandparents bought, and we would have to walk down Morgan Street and go down to the end of the road, and then it would go around by the peanut factory. And I can remember going to school, and the bus would come with the white kids on it. I had to walk to school. And I don't know how far it was, but it was a good way. When you're a kid you don't think about it [unintelligible]. So, we would walk down, and the kids [55:00] used to spit on us from the bus and throw things at us from the bus when we would be walking to school in the morning, and we would -- they would just come around, and I always wondered, "Why do they get to ride when we walk?" You know? That's not fair, but it's just something that happened [unintelligible]. You walked to school because you [unintelligible] school.

FT: Well, my family's home was three blocks from the white school. I walked past the white school every day, two and a half miles, to the other side of town to go to the black

school. Because of my father and them being Masons, they never bothered us, and we didn't bother them, but we didn't go down the street. We walked down the railroad tracks many times --

KB: Oh, okay.

FT: -- in order to get [Andrews?] Street. Then we would go to school [unintelligible].

KB: [unintelligible].

FT: Now, I'm going to tell [Kat?] and them something that they don't know about. [56:00] When I got to be in 11th grade, the white people knew that it was time for a change. We had -- and [Booker?] knows her name. There was a black girl, but she was so white she was lighter than the [quills?]. She was attending school over at Randolph -- I mean, Cuthbert High. Okay?

IG: She passed.

FT: Well, you see how light I am, and [Zell Scott?] -- he's lighter than me. They recruited us. I played baseball; I couldn't play basketball because it was inside of the school. I ran track over at the white school my junior and senior years, and also, you know, like, over at my school. But a lot of folks didn't know that, but they were doing that as a test to see how people were going to react and handle it, you know. Now, [57:00] I didn't play first

base; I didn't play third base. I played center field (laughs) or either right field, which was way out there in the field where, you know, like, if something did happen, you know, like, "hey, it's time to get up out of here." But there were a whole lot of things going on and etc. I played ball with two of Liz's brothers, but we didn't have a park. Liz's dad had a basketball hoop out there in their back yard. I can remember chased off from over at their house when everything got dark, because it was time for us to go home. Mr. [Shorter?] would come out there and tell us, "Hey, you all have got to go." You know what I mean (laughs)? "It's time to go." But those were the activities that we had. I walked right past Andrew College, the college that she was talking about. They had a big beautiful park, the park where they're having the jazz festival right now. I never set foot in that park until --

BH: [Until the last few years?]. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: -- [I'd say a couple of years ago?]. You know, like, [58:00] to the [unintelligible].

IG: When we went down to Octoberfest.

BH: You could almost see the park from your house.

FT: Right, exactly.

BH: Now, that's a shame.

FT: But we couldn't go in it. And I did not know that, you know, like, blacks were attending Andrew College until a couple years ago. You know, like, a couple of our friends and stuff, you know, like, graduated from there. I didn't know any of all this, because, you know, like, I left in '64.

EH: But that's why we had to leave. That was one of the reasons for migration. I would have loved to have gone to college --

FT: Right.

EH: -- when I graduated, but there was nobody to encourage us or tell us -- figure out how to do it. But like I said, my mother went to school; she went to ninth grade, but my father, only third grade. So, we didn't know how to get the information from you to prepare for college and go to college and all that, so I just had to leave there. It was convenient for me that my family was here, that I could come here. And --

IG: [unintelligible].

EH: -- [unintelligible] it took me a while, [59:00] but I eventually did go on to college.

IG: That was the one thing about Mr. Bright coming here from New York, because he encouraged us, and he went that mile

to convince us and our parents that we should do this.

FT: Now, you're saying New York. Mr. Bright is from Albany, Georgia.

IG: Well, yeah, originally, but --

FT: Right, okay.

IG: -- I'm saying that.

FT: [unintelligible] from, because he helped start, you know, like, the NAACP with Mr. [Davis?] and all of them long before he left, you know, like, Albany and stuff like that, because he knew who I was when I got to Cuthbert. You know, like, but I didn't know him. Now, the only incident that I had with, you know, like, white people here in Easton was when I came back from the military. That was during the hippie days, 1971, now. You were a schoolteacher out at the high school.

BH: Junior high.

FT At the junior high. I wasn't even out of the military, because we arrived in [1:00:00] -- at Kennedy Airport on a Friday. That's when they were having all of the [walkouts?] and all of the movements, and everybody was doing -- they wouldn't even let us military people come through the airport. They sent a military bus out to the plane, picked us up, and took us directly to, you know, like, Fort Dix, because that's where I was going to get

discharged from. Well, I couldn't get discharged on the weekend, so [unintelligible] [Hugo Simmons?] drove down to Fort Dix and picked me up. When I got here that Saturday, I found out that Friday you all had had senior day out at Easton High School. The white kids came out there in the Ku Klux Klan uniforms. We organized a rally --

IG: Really?

FT: Yeah, that happened. I'll never forget. I'm still in the military; Mr. Bright, Ms. [Ketchin?], [1:01:00] Lee Harris, all of them that were in charge of the march -- we organized down here at the circle.

IG: All right.

FT: We were marching -- we marched out to the high school. Well, we didn't get anywhere but up here at the top of 6<sup>th</sup> Street --

IG: 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

FT: -- here. That's when they turned loose all of the dogs and all of the police on us.

CN: Do you have memories of that [unintelligible]?

BH: Oh, yes.

FT: I would be in jail today if it hadn't been for Mr. Bright, because I was one of the -- I was up front.

BH: Yeah.

FT: I was one of the first ones that they grabbed and caught.

They had me up off the ground, trying to throw me in back of one of the police vans. Mr. Bright -- you know, he asked me; he said, "Are you out of the military yet?" I said, "No," and he said, "You can't be here," because --

BH: [unintelligible]

FT: That was '71.

BH: Yeah, '71.

FT: That was in 1971, because that's when I came back from Germany. I'll never forget it.

BH: Yeah, I remember it.

FT: Because I wasn't even out of the military yet. And he said, "You can't be here." You [1:02:00] know what I mean? He wrestled two policemen down right here at 6<sup>th</sup> Street, right across from where the [Mile High?] used to be, and got me away from them and told me not to stop running until I got across that bridge --

IG: Yeah, to --

FT: -- into New Jersey.

IG: -- New Jersey.

FT: Okay? Because he knew if I had gotten arrested, I'd have been in the stockade for life, because --

IG: [unintelligible].

FT: -- if you're a military person, you cannot participate in any such thing --

IG: That's right.

FT: -- [unintelligible] country [unintelligible] stuff like that.

BH: And I remember that, because I was in [unintelligible] for the school district. You know, I guess that's why I wasn't with them.

FT: Right. Yeah, exactly.

BH: But I remember that. You said one thing about Mr. Bright and New York, so let me just tell you a story of what I've learned, you know, through the how many years I've almost - - that I've been on this planet, you know. There was, and even now are, a difference in the northern black person than a southern black person. I remember one story, and I always tell the kids this story, that the old lady [1:03:00] that lived above me, Ms. Hetty Goode, who was around during the Civil War and the Indian wars -- she told me one story, and I'll never forget it, and I tell it to my own kids all the time. She told me a story about, in 1870-something, during the Indian war out in Dakota -- and she remembered this, because she read the paper, okay? That the Indians captured a white boy who was about four or five years old, okay? And they took him back to the camp to live. You see this in movies and stuff like that. And I guess it took about five or six years for them to rescue

this boy, and when soldiers went to rescue this boy, he didn't want to go back with the soldiers, you know. She told me -- I'll never forget it -- because he liked it so well with the Indians, because that was his home for all those years. So, she said, "You are who you grow up with, regardless of color, see," and I'll never forget that. And when I went to college, I went back down south to college, okay? I was up north [1:04:00], okay? Northern books, northern songs, northern history, which --

FT: It was different.

BH: -- [unintelligible] till I was older, it was different history.

FT: It was totally different. [unintelligible].

BH: And when I went down south to South Carolina State -- and I was raised in Pennsylvania; she and I were the only black kids in our classes all the way through --

IG: And the Gilbert boys.

BH: And the Gilberts, okay? And we had to put up with those songs when they sang, "Old Black Joe, way down by the Suwannee River," you know? We had to put up with that stuff from first grade all the way up. There wasn't a damn thing you could do about it, okay? So, when I went back down to South Carolina State, I knew about the South, because Mrs. Goode had educated me for years about what it

was really like; prejudice and stuff. And I knew once I crossed that Maryland line, that you had to be a different person if you wanted to stay alive. This was back in 1959, now -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: -- still do, right at the beginning of this civil rights movement. [1:05:00] I'll never forget that. And when you cross that line, you feel it. As an 18-year-old kid, you feel it. You know that you have to do the right thing, or else you could be in jail. Okay? And we got to South Carolina State; it was a campus of all black people, okay? Three thousand black kids, you know. And I wasn't used to that. Black as I am, I wasn't used to that.

KB: Amen.

BH: And I almost came home, because I was homesick for Easton.

IG: (laughs) To see some white people?(laughter)

BH: Yeah, I was homesick. I remembered Hall's Court and all, poor neighborhood, but I don't care what kind of home it is, you've still got homesick. And [unintelligible] the coach -- [Al Jones?]; he's not here today -- eight hours, because I had my bag packed, and I was leaving, you know. And they finally said, "Take it a week at a time."

[unintelligible] [1:06:00] to me for eight hours, and I said, "Okay, I'll do that," see, and that's what I did. I started taking it a week at a time, and by the time it was

Thanksgiving, I was used to it. I was over the homesickness, because I wanted [unintelligible] -- and my girl was back home, too. (laughter)

BH: So, I was ready to go home, you know. But I remember the kids from New York, see. The kids from New York -- they didn't have a problem coming down south, and the kids from Philadelphia. They didn't have a problem integrating, because New York and Philadelphia -- there are a lot of blacks. They're used to there being a lot of blacks, see.

IG: Yes, yes.

BH: I couldn't figure out [unintelligible] why I had this problem. Because I wasn't used to being around my own people until I got to South Carolina State.

IG: Right, yeah.

BH: I got an education [unintelligible] culture education, you could call it, see. [Even if you're?] black, I was raised with mostly white people, see.

EH: Right.

BH: We were talking about -- in music theory -- talking about "oh, I like James Brown and So-and-so and So-and-so," and [1:07:00] I said, "Oh, I like Elvis Presley." They almost ran me out of the [unintelligible]. (laughter)

BH: I [unintelligible] and learn something about black people while I'm here.

IG: Yeah.

BH: And I had to learn, see. But the kids from New York and Philadelphia, those kids who -- a New York kid is already worldly. They can ride subways at three years of age, you know, and they walk down the street and stuff. They were more experienced than I was, and [they had more?] black people. But New York or Philadelphia kids had no problem going to South Carolina State at all. But guys like me or [Joe Gilmore?], my roommate from Philadelphia, [Larry Callair?] -- we had problems because we were raised up north, and they didn't teach us anything about our own people. We had what you call history the way they teach it up north, but it didn't include enough black information, so I [didn't?] feel comfortable when I went back in, see. And I'll never forget that. That's where the first civil rights demonstration started, really [1:08:00], in Orangeburg in 1959. We had our first demonstration where we went to downtown Orangeburg -- about 2,000 black students, see -- and I can still remember the [unintelligible] fire hoses behind the fire trucks standing there, and one -- I call him a redneck, because that's what he was in those days, you know. He stopped us. Now, to this day, I swear to God, I don't know how I got on the front of the line, our line, because I wasn't a leader. I

was just a football player trying to get by, see. And we had [a little midget?] right next to me named [Gigi?]. Oh, he was sharp. He had suits on every day, bowties and everything. He was from New York. He was sharp. And next to me was David Deacon Jones. He was an ex-football player for the Los Angeles Rams. You heard about him [1:09:00]. He went on and became a star and all that stuff, you know. And then a guy named [Clarence White?] was the spokesman. He was two away from me, and Al Jones was on the other side of the little midget, okay? Now, the midget is from New York, now; they don't take any crap, okay? So, we walked up. There must have been, like, 10,000 troopers out there with guns out, holsters, everything. They stopped us. And like I said, I wasn't the spokesman. I was just right next to Clarence White; Gigi was right next to me, and Gigi was the spokesman. Gigi wasn't supposed to talk; Clarence was talking, and a big white man said, "Where do you all think you're going?" And I don't know why Gigi started to talk, because Clarence was our spokesman. He said, "We're going into that five-and-dime and be served," and that white man said, "Well, we don't serve niggers here." [1:10:00] And Gigi -- [we were trying to?] [unintelligible]. Gigi said, "Well, we don't eat them!," and then he said, "[Furthermore?]" -- and Gigi looked up at him -- "you can

call me Mr. Nigger." (laughter)

BH: When he said that, 2,000 Negroes just scattered all over. The hose hit Gigi and [unintelligible] him from here to that wall back there, and there was, like, a little opening for the water to go down, and the only reason he didn't go down was because David Deacon Jones went back there and grabbed him. Then they both just hauled butt through the city. They put about 30 of our people in jail, you know. Chain gang. This was the first --

KB: Wow.

BH: Yeah. They didn't catch me. I was a halfback [unintelligible]. (laughter)

IG: Thank goodness, [unintelligible].

BH: Yeah. But that was some experience. I will never forget it, you know. "Call me Mr. Nigger." That's what he said. And that guy got -- [1:11:00] oh, my God. And they put them in jail, and half of the guys that were in jail had to be expelled, and then the governor sent an order that any athlete who went on the next one -- on scholarship -- would be expelled. So, I was an athlete, and, you know, I didn't have any money. I was there on scholarship, so I didn't go back out. But for the next two years, they demonstrated, up until 1964. That was the last one. That's what they call the Orangeburg Massacre. That's when they shot four

of our students, you know, and they shot other students.

Another guy that was with us was Congressman [Cliburn?].

He's the school --

KB: Oh, yeah.

(overlapping)

IG: He's my classmate.

KB: I just met him.

BH: [unintelligible].

KB: I just met him.

BH: [unintelligible] ask him if he knows Juice Houston

(laughs).

KB: Oh, yeah, I just met him.

BH: He was --

IG: [unintelligible] D.C.?

KB: No [unintelligible] --

BH: He's from South Carolina.

KB: Yeah, I just met him. He's on TV all the time.

BH: Yeah.

IG: Did you meet him in D.C.?

KB: No, I met him up in Bethlehem when I had --

BH: He was here.

KB: -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

Female Speaker: [Susan?]. [overlapping dialogue;

unintelligible][1:12:00]

KB: [Susan Myers?]. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: He came up to campaign for her. I met him -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: That's my classmate.

IG: [unintelligible].

BH: He was a manager of the football team, you know. He would wake us up 4:00 every morning during August. We had to run about 10 miles before breakfast, see. He didn't have to run, so he was always talking trash and stuff like that, but he was a hell of a guy. Still is. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: I agree with you, Bill, about not, you know, growing up in this environment [unintelligible] --

BH: Right.

KB: I never had a black teacher teach me. Never had a black [unintelligible] --

BH: Man, [unintelligible] --

KB: Never. And that is a big difference.

EH: I never had [unintelligible] --

KB: They [unintelligible], because you don't have [unintelligible] -- right. And it's just like -- so, now my niece is trying to go to historically black colleges. She thinks it's going to be easy, when she's only ever gone to school with white kids. And I'm saying to her, "You

really need to think [1:13:00] about this, because you have not been in that environment."

BH: The whole [unintelligible].

KB: Right. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] think about [unintelligible] people from the South that never came across the Mason-Dixon line.

It's just the reverse of what Bill is saying. (agreement)

[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] get used to being here around, you know, like, mostly white people [unintelligible]. I was around black people all my life and stuff like that, and then have to work [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: You know, that was a problem for me [unintelligible].

(agreement)

FT: And also, you know, like, I know your friend, and I know you're not lying about Gigi. Okay? I met Gigi in Buford, South Carolina.

BH: That's where he was from [unintelligible].

FT: [unintelligible] Buford, South Carolina, and we were down there -- I don't know, it was a few years ago. It came about when they were coming down on the Geechee people.

BH: Okay, yeah.

FT: Okay?

BH: That's where the Geechees are from.

FT: About the language.

KB: Why? [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] [TV?] and everything. [Let me explain it to you?].

IG: I know [unintelligible] [1:14:00]. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: I know because my great-grandfather is one.

BH: Oh, okay, you know.

FT: [unintelligible] it was on national TV [unintelligible].

IG: I know about it.

FT: All [unintelligible] --

IG: [unintelligible].

FT: -- black hosts on TV, you know, like, they were [mocking?] the way the Geechee people were [talking?] --

BH: Right.

FT: -- [unintelligible] [that accent?] until, you know, like, we went down there, you know, like, and we had the rally, and Gigi was there. You know, like, we were in downtown --

BH: [unintelligible].

FT: -- Buford, South Carolina, looking right across the river from Parris Island. That's where Buford is.

BH: That's where it is (laughs).

FT: They brought in, you know, like, all of the Indians,

because, you know, like, Myrtle Beach, all of those places  
-- those were Indian burial grounds.

BH: Right.

FT: And so, they wanted to find out, you know, like, "Well,  
wait a minute. These people that are talking that are from  
the North don't even know what the original language is in  
America."

BH: It's Geechee.

IG: It's Geechee.

FT: Look it up. It's not Geechee; it's Gullah. (agreement)

FT: That's the proper name for it.

EH: The Gullah [unintelligible] [1:15:00].

FT: It's Gullah. How did it become that language?

BH: They don't [unintelligible] (laughs). [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: Let me explain it to you now. When they went to Africa to  
capture, you know, like, the slaves to come over here with  
Columbus, you know, like, it was Sierra Leone, Africa.  
That was the first place that they went. Well, Sierra  
Leone, Africa, has [four or five?] different sides to it.

KB: [unintelligible] Sierra Leone.

FT: All of the African people didn't speak the same language.  
(agreement)

BH: That's right. That's a problem.

FT: They only knew, you know, like, [unintelligible]. That's how they communicated with each other. So, when they brought the slaves here and dropped them off, and they were sold, you know, like, off to different plantations and farms and stuff like that, and they came into, you know, like, Charlotte, North Carolina, where they had the big auction block [unintelligible] on a Saturday, like you said, where they had the slaves on a Saturday -- everything was done on a Saturday. They told [1:16:00] all the plantation owners, "We want to keep them ignorant, so you cannot buy any more than five that are from the same [company?] of Africa, because we do not want them communicating with each other." Well, they created that language so that they could talk to each other and communicate. And do you realize, to this day, every ethnic group in this group has their own language that they can talk to each other except us? Because we deny it --

BH: That's true.

FT: We deny it and don't want to speak, you know, like, Geechee.

BH: That's true. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] they have a language that they can talk to each other, and we don't understand it. [unintelligible] -

-

IG: Another reason, too, was that when the Civil War happened, they were on that part, that island -- those islands down there -- and they didn't have any of the [1:17:00] -- the war didn't touch them.

FT: Right. They were safe there.

IG: They were safe. They could keep their culture, because even after that Reconstruction and all that other business that happened after the Civil War, it didn't touch them. They had their land, and they had their own society, and so, right down to this day, they have their land and have their society. But the rich white man that's trying to get it, because they had these laws that said that the whole family, let's say, owned 300 acres, and that was family land. But they didn't have a law that said that one person couldn't sell, so stupid members of your family were selling out to the -- [Paris Hilton's?] dad and to Hilton Hotel --

FT: [unintelligible] time, now, when we -- when they came over here and dropped the slaves off --

IG: No, no --

FT: -- they didn't have any black [folks?] other than each other --

IG: No --

FT: -- other than [1:18:00] the ones they captured over in

Africa --

IG: Yeah, but --

FT: -- they brought over with Christopher Columbus.

[unintelligible] --

IG: But that's who I'm talking about.

FT: What you --

IG: They inhabited those islands [the same time?]. Nobody else could raise the rice because they were scared that white people were going to go in there. Indians were --

FT: [unintelligible] --

IG: -- going to go in there --

FT: Back up a minute, now.

IG: The rice and the indigo.

FT: Rice won't grow -- rice doesn't grow down there. This why they left.

IG: Yes. No, [unintelligible] --

FT: And the rice -

IG: -- those islands, the Geechee islands off of South --

FT: Rice and cotton --

IG: -- [unintelligible] --

FT: -- won't grow in [salt water?].

IG: I'm not talking about cotton.

FT: [unintelligible] you'll ever have, because, now, I can take you down to, you know, like -- they've got -- there are all

different islands there. There are about five different, and I can take you to one where, you know, like, there aren't any roads, aren't any cars. Everybody has a boat that you have to take over to this part of the island [unintelligible] --

IG: Exactly.

FT: -- where they still live.

IG: They're [unintelligible], yeah.

FT: Because, you know, like, the cotton and -- none of this stuff will [1:19:00] grow over there. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: We went out there [unintelligible] a survey on all of these people over there, and they don't want to come back over to this side.

IG: No.

FT: This is why, you know, like, the tobacco [unintelligible], the rice [unintelligible], because it would not grow, you know, like, on salt water. This is why they created, you know, like, inlets, what you call inlets --

EH: Inlets.

FT: -- in order to try to bring salt -- I mean, fresh water in here. But, you know, like, when the tides came in, it always, you know, like, killed all of the crops and all of this other stuff and etc.

IG: But rice and indigo still are part of the Geechee heritage  
[unintelligible] --[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: That's [Sierra Leone] Africa.

IG: Yeah, because they were only ones that knew how to grow it.

FT: They knew how to grow [unintelligible] --

IG: [unintelligible] --

FT: Let me tell you -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: They knew how to do it, and so that's why [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible].

BH: When I was at South Carolina State, we had training  
[unintelligible]. We had this every year --

FT: I'm going to bring you some [unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible].

FT: I can take you out there and show you how they  
[unintelligible], you know [1:20:00]. [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible]

CN: And we do want to hear about more history, too, so let's  
make sure we do have a chance to [unintelligible] --  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

CN: -- during the '70s and '80s and '90s and --

FT: Let's go back to [unintelligible] bring up that family,  
then.

CN: So, Lillian, you want to [unintelligible] a couple of  
points.

Lillian Robinson: I have a question.

FT: Yes.

LR: I grew up on [unintelligible] Street.

FT: Okay, I know where it is.

LR: A very African-American neighborhood [unintelligible].

Everyone in that neighborhood was from Cuthbert. That's what sparked my interest in this project. But I hear two different pronunciations. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: Like, I'm from the north, [so mine's wrong?] (laughs).

EH: It's [Cussbert?].

IG: But it is Cuthbert.

LR: Cuthbert, T-H. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: People from down south --

FT: C-U-T-H-B-E-R-T. It's Cuthbert, Georgia.

IG: People from down south say, "Cussbert." (agreement)

IG: They say S-S instead of T-H.

LR: It's more [unintelligible]. (agreement)

LR: Okay, [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

BH: A lot of people don't know that down south sometimes words are abbreviated, because way [1:21:00] back 150 years ago, when there were slaves and stuff like that, they didn't have enough time sometimes to say, you know, [unintelligible] or something like that, because the white

man was on their butt [unintelligible] more work, so they have to shorten things. See, that's [unintelligible] --

EH: Try to get it all out.

BH: You still [unintelligible], see. But I never called my mother "Ma". I said, "Mom," you know, because that's the way it was down south.

LR: Okay.

CN: I want to ask about the debutante balls. Were any of you involved in those? The SINYA debutante balls? (laughter)

CN: Yeah? And did it have anything to do -- you know, was there overlap between kind of Cuthbert, you know, that sort of migratory stream from Cuthbert and the debutante balls? Or there was not really any relationship between those? Yeah.

EH: But that mostly came from colleges. It kind of had to do with the sororities [unintelligible].

CN: Oh, it came from the sororities? Okay.[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

CN: Okay, you were involved with that.

EH: Yeah, I was involved in that. When they started that, it was a group of college graduates [unintelligible] started.

CN: Okay.

EH: [unintelligible] --

IG: But prior -- yeah, [unintelligible] [1:22:00].

[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible] their guys [unintelligible] was involved in that, he and his wife, [unintelligible].

EH: And she was before I [unintelligible].

BH: Yeah.

EH: But then they asked me to join, you know, also, but I hadn't finished college at that particular time.

CN: Okay.

IG: And prior to that, it was like the big cities, the very high-yellow people. They had debutante balls for their children so that they could meet of the opposite sex high-yellow people, see, and so that they could continue to have, like, a class that would only accept, like, the Booker T. Washingtons if you were a little bit blacker. And I think the rules used to be, what? A brown --

EH: No --

IG: -- paper bag...

EH: When I was [involved] [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] was just like she said.

IG: It was just like what I said [1:23:00]. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: If you were light, bright, damn near white, you got treated differently.

IG: Yeah, and you got to marry somebody light-bright --

FT: [unintelligible].

IG: -- trying to keep the [race?]. I found one of my relatives who had -- and his dad had a PhD, was on the grand tour going to Europe and Greece and Turkey and everything else in 1890. He had a PhD when most white people didn't even have a high school education. Right? Okay, well, his son also did the same thing, did the grand tour with the Vanderbilts and all of that. They were brown people, light brown, but they were brown. They were browner than them. And what happened was he married this lady who was the daughter of a judge, and she was light-bright, and her name was -- her last name was French, and she looked like she was French, too. But the thing about it was [1:24:00] I wonder to this day, because I couldn't find any kids, and I said, "I wonder if her dad said, 'Don't have any kids, because they're going to be chocolate.'"

EH: That happened --

IG: You know?

EH: Let me tell you [unintelligible] --

IG: I don't know that. I could be [unintelligible].

EH: Let me tell you how it happened in my culture and [unintelligible]. We had that. We had to have that --

IG: Really?

EH: -- [unintelligible] [light?] people. We had -- well, not many -- people that were -- what do you call -- [biracial-looking?].

IG: Yeah.

EH: And they stayed involved in themselves.

IG: Yes.

EH: [A lot of?] women --

IG: Yes.

EH: -- that had children, and they were much more well-off than most of the other black people. Well, coming from a culture like I did -- we did -- you didn't ask adults about adults' business. You know what I mean?

KB: Oh, no.

EH: So, you didn't really know. But as you got older, you knew something had to be going on [1:25:00] because there was no man in that house, and the lady was there in the house all day. She wasn't working. And they were kind of well-off. They were doing very well. So, there had to be something going on. So, as we got older, and we could ask questions about it, and then we got some answers.

IG: Right.

EH: But that was part of the culture. That's been going on. Like I said, like, my grandmother was biracial.

KB: My great-grandfather [unintelligible].

EH: Her father raped her mother. She was born [unintelligible] she [unintelligible]. She was ostracized by the rest of her family because they were -- my grandmother got married to a black man, and they had children, and those children ostracized her because of the color of her skin. So, I mean, these kinds of --

IG: Yeah, it went both ways.

EH: All those things went on, and, you know, that's why I was showing you why I [1:26:00] had to defend some things, and some things I can't, you know.

BH: History books [unintelligible] --

FT: [unintelligible] --[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

EH: Are you kidding? [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

EH: Are you kidding?

FT: If [unintelligible] start, then you need to go back to [unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible].

FT: If we all came from Africa, and we were all as dark as that lamppost, you know, like, then how did some of us turn out to be, you know, like, light-skinned and high yellow and high [unintelligible], you know, like, Geechee [unintelligible] --

EH: That's [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: [The Geechee with the eyes?]?

FT: No, no, I'm talking about [unintelligible], now.

IG: [unintelligible].

FT: [unintelligible] the Creoles --

IG: The Creoles.

FT: -- and all of that. You know, how do you think we all came about? Because, you know, like, we got intersected with, you know, like, the English white man, you know, like, the Jews --

KB: It's [unintelligible].

FT: -- the French --

EH: And they tried to keep [unintelligible] --

FT: -- the Indians and all of that. They tried to keep it, you know, like, [unintelligible] --

EH: [unintelligible] [all in the family?].

FT: -- a long time, but then it finally came out and etc. Now, Liz, you know for yourself. Your brother is just as light as me. Now, we had problems, you know, like, at our school.

EH: He was [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

FT: "Well, you can do this, and you can't do that [1:27:00]."  
I was called many a name. You know, like, "you're a white man." Look at my name, you know [unintelligible]. Where did "Fulton" come from? We came out of West Virginia. But now go to West Virginia where we originated from. We're

part of the [McCullens?], and the Thorntons got hooked up in West Virginia, then moved to, you know, like, Atlanta, Georgia, which we got hooked up with, you know, like, the Cherokee Indians, because that's in our family. If you see my mother, her hair, like, hangs down, you know, like, her back and etc. But to understand all of that you would have had to have been there, because like Liz said, you know, like, we couldn't talk about all that.

EH: We couldn't talk about it. (agreement)

BH: Right, right.

FT: If you go through Virginia now, you know, like, you'll see national parks, you will see banks, you will see, you know, like historical buildings, all of this stuff, you know, like, with "Thornton" and "Fulton" on it. Now, my grandmother named me. She would not tell any of the family -- tell them [1:28:00]. "Don't ask me why I'm naming him that." Now, she knew.

EH: And you respected that.

FT: Now, she knew some stuff that, you know, like, nobody knows. I asked yesterday -- I forget where I was at. Oh, I went out to see a specialist yesterday. I walked in to see, you know, like, the doctor. First thing they asked me, "How did you get this name?" I haven't ever thought about it, but I know it's English.

IG: Thornton?

FT: Thornton and Fulton. I've got two last names.

IG: Oh, Thornton.

FT: Yeah, and both of them are English, you know what I mean?

That's all I know that I can pull up. But the first question that he asked me, and he looked, you know, like, almost light as me -- the doctor -- and he said, "Where did you get that name from?" [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible] explained thoroughly to the youth of America.

FT: Exactly.

BH: [unintelligible] to be explained because it's going to always be there.

EH: [unintelligible].

BH: Because true history is not really true history, because you're leaving out too many things. (agreement)

FT: So [1:29:00] much that we don't know.

KB: Because we have to look at, like, my sister. My sister, when she was younger, was much, much lighter than I was. My mom is much lighter than I am, and here I come, really chocolate. And people used to think that, you know, "that's not your mom." You know, "were you adopted?" I'm like, "No, my mom had the same mom and dad, and my sister

and I have the same." But my great-grandfather was half-white, and my grandmother was very fair. She had 17 children. Half of them came out light; half of them came out dark like me.

BH: You roll the dice.

KB: And my mother was one that came out light, but she married a darker man. My sister came out light-bright, and I came out the way I was, and we've got the same father. That's part of the history of it. But I can remember when we came to Easton [1:30:00]. God rest her soul, [Mrs. May?] -- you remember [Hattie?] May's mom, [Mattie Pearl?].

BH: Oh, yeah, yeah. [unintelligible].

KB: All of a sudden, I can't think of -- Mrs. May or --

IG: [Mrs. Chaney?].

KB: Yeah.

BH: Yeah.

KB: She said to me one day as plain as day -- I guess I was about nine, eight -- "did your mama find you in a cabbage patch?" And that was long before the Cabbage Patch dolls came out. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: That's what she said to me. "Because you don't look anything like your sister and your mom." And it was just so -- and my father's mother, she was lighter than my mother. But she had a son; he was a Knighton. He was a

Knighton, and so, you know, the Knightons were very dark. So, she had the baby by him, and my father came out [1:31:00] my color, and I took his color, because [unintelligible].

IG: Guess what? Uncle Jimbo's dad or mom was half-white. I just found that out a couple of days ago.

FT: Now, you [came here to tell me that?] [unintelligible] --

IG: My great-uncle -- anyway, he's in the slave narratives. [Taylor Gilbert?], from Titusville, Florida. And if you Google "Taylor Gilbert", you'll read his slave narrative that [unintelligible] that interviewed him could have asked a few more -- let him talk a little bit more, but he didn't, so I didn't get -- you don't get as much information as you could get. But at any rate, what he said was -- it tied it right in, and I could hook him right on into my genealogy, what I had been -- you know, "Taylor" is an unusual name in the first place for a first name. But anyway, so [1:32:00] his dad and mom -- his mom -- he's a product of the slave master. Right? So, his mom was half-Indian. He's a product of the slave master. His mom had two kids by this [David Ferguson?]. He's 91 when he's being interviewed -- this is in 1938 -- and what he says is that the two -- his mom had two kids. They went to school. She had five -- that this Mr. Ferguson, the slave master,

went to a Dr. Gilbert and bought his mother a husband whose name was [Jacob Gilbert?]. The mother had the two kids, [Frances?], who I tracked down and got her, and Taylor by [1:33:00] Ferguson, and the other five kids were by this Jacob Gilbert. The children by Jacob Gilbert worked on the plantation, and Frances and Taylor went to school.

FT: Now, here in Easton?

IG: No, this was in Shellman, Georgia.

FT: [unintelligible].

IG: It says he was born in Shellman, Georgia. That's Randolph -- still Randolph.

EH: Yeah, [unintelligible].

FT: [It's part of?] Randolph.

IG: [unintelligible], yeah.

FT: [unintelligible].

IG: It's still Randolph. (agreement)

IG: But anyway, in the slave narrative it said that, you know, "Gilbert was a strapping lad during slavery time, and he could have easily passed for white." But, as he says, "I didn't want to." So, there were a lot of people --

EH: A lot of [unintelligible].

IG: -- who could have passed. They didn't want to.

BH: That's true.

IG: But there were a lot of slave master kids who I've come across in my research [1:34:00] that their fathers sent them north, because they didn't personally want their kids to be slaves, so they sent them north to be educated. And one example of this lady -- I started doing research in 1977 with Alex Haley. Right? So, I used to go to the Long Beach, California library, and they're big in -- because a lot of Southern people live in Long Beach, so they're big in, like, genealogy and stuff, so their library is, like, fantastic.

FT: I'm a little confused here about -- let me back up a minute here. Now, you're saying --

IG: [unintelligible].

FT: -- there was -- no, you just made a statement here. You're saying that there were no, you know, like, slaves in the North.

IG: That there was what?

FT: You just said there were no slaves in the North. You said --

IG: No --

FT: -- all the families sent their kids north [unintelligible] --

IG: No, I said a lot --

KB: [unintelligible].

IG: -- of those slave masters' kids [1:35:00] -- their kids came out white like her. You think they were going to let them suffer the slings and arrows of fortune as a black person down south when they themselves [unintelligible] beat [unintelligible] --

FT: Well, I'm still trying to understand something, you know, [unintelligible].

IG: They sent their kids up north to go to school and get lost, you know.

FT: When was, you know, like, the north, you know, like, considered, you know, like, not being free? It was the same [unintelligible] --

IG: No, [unintelligible] --

FT: -- in the South.

IG: -- they went up north, they would --

FT: No.

IG: -- pass. (agreement)

KB: They passed.

IG: They passed.

FT: No, no, no, I'm not talking about passing. I'm talking about [laws?]. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: There were a whole lot of [unintelligible] --

IG: [unintelligible] --

FT: -- passed.

IG: -- what I said.

FT: You're talking about, like, coming from, you know, like, the South, you know, like, to the North. When did, you know, like -- you know, like, the North black folks were considered, you know, like, not slaves.

BH: Well, what you're going to have to do is [unintelligible] -  
-

FT: Because, now, I read Jim Brown's book, and he's from, you know, like, that little island outside --

IG: He wasn't light, bright, almost white.

FT: No, no, no, no. But Jim Brown was raised in an all-white compound [unintelligible] the rich -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: -- [unintelligible] up in New York. That's why he wound up in Syracuse, [1:36:00] because he's from a little island outside of Savannah, you know, like, down there where a special [turtle?] grows and stuff like that. This is why he hates, you know, like, white people [unintelligible] to this day, because, you know, like, they came down and bought his mom, and she was a housemaid up there in New York. He went to all-white schools and stuff like that and etc., you know, that they would not let him interface with any black folks, wouldn't let him play with any black kids and stuff like that. And he'll tell you in his own book --

he said, you know, like, every time, you know, like, he got hit on the football field, they thought he was hurt and stuff and get up. He said, you know, like, he was so mad that, you know, like, he wanted them to think that, you know, like, way. But, you know, like, he was so angry --

IG: [unintelligible] nothing to do with the --

EH: Nobody.

IG: -- white slave master's --

EH: Excuse me.

IG: -- sending their kids --

EH: Nobody can determine what you're going to get out of your culture. You can't determine that.

IG: I know, but [unintelligible].

EH: You can't determine one factor by another factor. Like in my case, I had some people that went through [1:37:00] the same thing I went through, and they feel that same way, too. They have the hatred. So, it has nothing to do with the culture itself to determine if somebody is going [unintelligible] --

FT: But that wasn't my question. My question was, you know, like --

EH: I understand --

FT: -- when did the black --

EH: I'm just trying to tell you what I understand you were

saying, and you were saying that people hate Jim Brown  
[unintelligible] --

FT: No, no, no, no. She brought that up. My question was, you know, like, based on what she was saying. You know, like, when did the northern black folks, you know, like, consider themselves free? I thought they were all free at the same time.

IG: But that has nothing to do with what I said. You misunderstood what I said.

FT: Not really.

LR: [Not really free?] [unintelligible].

BH: The Emancipation Proclamation -- now, when Lincoln passed that, okay? The war wasn't even over. All right? And when the war was over, the worst thing that could happen to this country was when Lincoln got assassinated.

IG: Yes.

BH: If he hadn't gotten assassinated, the South wouldn't have had those Jim Crow laws that they --

IG: Yes.

BH: -- some still have.

IG: Yes.

BH: And that's when -- you know, could answer your question [1:38:00]. All right? It all goes back to Lincoln, when he was assassinated. And do you know, one time I woke up,

and I said to myself, "Damn, I'm only 75 years away from slavery." I was born in 1940. People were [unintelligible] --

IG: [unintelligible].

BH: -- slaves --

IG: That's right.

BH: -- when I was a kid.

IG: That's right.

BH: And I remember my grandmother telling my cousin when we went down to visit, "Don't take him down there where those slaves are down on the riverbank," because there were old men, 80, 90 years old, you know. They had scars on them and everything, and I saw that, but I didn't realize, "Whew, we just made it, brother." Seventy-five years.

KB: One of the things I noticed, too -- kind of bringing it back to Easton -- is -- and growing up in this atmosphere, you know, not being in a completely segregated black area, but intermingled with a group of people, Easton is the most diverse city that I can think of. Because [1:39:00] when I was young, growing up, I saw, you know, kids from white mothers/black fathers --

IG: Exactly.

KB: -- black mothers/white fathers. It was just something that they grew up with. Like, now my grandchildren are mixed.

So, it's just the way this area is. Easton is so diverse. I can remember when it really took off when I was -- in the '60s, in high school, and the kids were, you know -- it was just so much of the black and white, and I think that caused some of that strife that happened, because it was high school. So, these girls and black guys -- they were just getting together, and, you know, [going over?] [unintelligible] and [being that way?], and that's the way it is now. It's just so --

IG: [unintelligible] we were talking about.

BH: Right.

KB: Yeah. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: There's just so much. (agreement)

KB: And I think of when they have that [ride?] and stuff [1:40:00] [after?], that was, you know, part of the cause of it --

IG: I think so.

KB: -- because they didn't -- because it was more out [in the open?]. You saw the [products?] of the children -- (agreement)

KB: -- but back in the '70s, it just became -- they didn't care who [unintelligible]. That's the way -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: You don't think that's affected, you know, like, those kids

in the way their lives are being led today.

KB: Oh, sure.

FT: Okay, I was just going to say that, because, now, I've been dealing with kids, you know, like, for over 55 years in the business that I'm in. I've had to sit kids down and talk to them that came out of these, you know, like, interracial families that you're talking to that had families, you know, like, in the South, in the North, and all over this country and stuff like that. To me, they actually, Bill, didn't know who they were. They were still trying to find themselves, you know what I mean? [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: In fact, one kid -- he went -- he had family down south. He couldn't get along with the family up here, couldn't get along with the family in Connecticut and in New York. But he went down south; [1:41:00] he couldn't even deal with the family down there, and he was back here, you know, like, in -- he almost wound up, you know, like, in the [nuthouse], because I'm trying to talk to him. Now, we run a counseling business and stuff like that. Now, I am shocked; we have a counseling business in Atlanta, D.C., Baltimore, Maryland, two sites in Allentown, one in [Charlottesville?] now, and if we hadn't -- if [Shiloh?] hadn't turned us down, we would have been running, you

know, like, that house that they're talking about, you know, like, that's going to come up to be a [unintelligible]. We opened the business because the state of Pennsylvania closed all of the state hospitals. They dumped all those people out on the street all over the world. We've got more young people coming through for therapy, physically and mentally, than I could ever have thought or ever imagined, all because, you know, like, [1:42:00] some of the stuff that you're talking about that you're saying is all right, but you don't understand what it's doing to them, you know, like, mentally and physically inside.

KB: But I have to tell you this here. I know, because I am -- my grandchildren, from the day they were born -- and this is what happened. You have to have the right mindset in order to get a person to know who they were. All three of my grandchildren will tell you today -- their mother is white, but I've told them since the day they were born, "You will be seen as black." So, if you know you're black, then you live that way.

BH: That's right.

KB: And it's a fact. My grandkids know they're black. There's no question. They're comfortable in their skin.

IG: My grandkids don't.

KB: They know it because [unintelligible]. Well, see, that's -  
-

IG: My grandkids don't. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: [unintelligible] look at it, because my mother  
[unintelligible] --

FT: [unintelligible] is frightening. Really frightening.

KB: You will [unintelligible] [1:43:00] know your  
[unintelligible] and who you are, and how the people around  
you see you is how they're going to do. Because look at  
Barack Obama. He's black. You've got to be.

LR: Ms. [unintelligible], I'll just interject. Black --  
Africa -- is a dominant gene. Mix it with any culture on  
this globe; it will be black. (agreement)

LR: [unintelligible] dominant skin gene. (agreement)

LR: That's what it is.

KB: That's why [unintelligible] --

LR: [unintelligible] biology.

KB: Right.

LR: [unintelligible].

KB: And if they have parents that teach them that -- because  
they have to know how they're going to be seen.

(agreement) [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible] tell them the truth.

KB: Tell them the truth.

IG: Mine are Italian, so you've got to know Italian  
[unintelligible], okay? [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

IG: The Italian mama --

FT: [unintelligible] --

IG: -- the Italian grandmom got them before me.

FT: We can do all of that --

IG: The Italian grandmom is the one who is the boss --

FT: [unintelligible] --

IG: -- the Italian mama --

FT: It's a different world today --

IG: -- is --

FT: -- than it was, you know, like, when [unintelligible].

IG: No, no --

FT: It's a different [1:44:00] world --

IG: -- this is Italian. You've got [unintelligible].

FT: We're not talking about Italian. We're talking about, you  
know, how these [black people?] --

IG: We're talking Italian.

FT: -- are going to be perceived when they leave Easton and go  
out there. This is a big old world out here.

EH: That's right.

FT: Okay? Now, I can teach my kids, and I've taught my  
grandkids, and etc., how to be and etc. Now, when they go

out there into the world, you know, like, they have to, you know, like, be accepted by the people that they are surrounded by. Now, this is what they're going to have. Are you preparing them, you know, like, for that?

IG: They're going to rule the world.

FT: [unintelligible] because they're not going to have --

IG: They're going to rule the world.

FT: -- the same way you are -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible] [when they're that high?], you've got to tell them the truth.

KB: But then you've got to get now with a mixture of -- with the Hispanics --

BH: [That's right?]. [unintelligible].

KB: -- [unintelligible] all [unintelligible] --

FT: Oh, now you've brought up something you don't [unintelligible] --

KB: [unintelligible] --

FT: -- you all don't -- you all tell me --

KB: It's going to all be one race one day -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: -- and that's [unintelligible] [fight?], that's [unintelligible].

FT: You're talking about the different color [unintelligible].

IG: But they're going to rule the world.

FT: Now, you explain to me --

IG: The biracial [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

CN: [1:45:00] Okay, we [unintelligible] because we're probably going to have to disband pretty soon, and we were [really hoping?] to get, like, a couple representative tales from life in Easton during the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s. You know, like, specific --

FT: [unintelligible] tell all those stories. [unintelligible].  
(laughter)

FT: Yeah, let's go back to Cuthbert. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] none of the [Pratts?] and none of the other people that came out of Cuthbert [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible] [do stuff?].

CN: Yeah, like, anything -- sort of, like, specific stories. I think, like, particular, you know, kind of stories from life in Easton, right? Because, of course, the root of it, I think, that's Lillian is really interested in is that kind of, like, migration from Cuthbert.

LR: Right.

CN: But then it's to Easton, and, like, what's life like in

Easton? Did you want to add to that, Lillian?

LR: I just had a question. At the same time your families migrated to [1:46:00] Easton, the Europeans were also migrating. (agreement)

EH: The Lebanese [unintelligible].

LR: Yes, ma'am.

BH: The Lebanese [unintelligible].

LR: They were also [unintelligible]. Did you find it difficult when trying to find a job or [unintelligible] --

BH: Today?

LR: -- housing?

BH: You mean today or back then?

LR: No, then.

BH: Then. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: Oh, yeah.

LR: Them, European, versus you, the American.

IG: Well, my dad told me that at Bethlehem Steel the black men always had the lowest work so that they were always, like, the plain laborers and stuff, whereas they would give the Europeans, like, a little bit, you know, higher --

LR: [Higher position?].

IG: -- position.

EH: Well, the expectations were -- then, that was their expectation, [unintelligible].

FT: No, they worked down in the foundries, because that's where my uncle John was. That's where my uncle [unintelligible] was in Pittsburgh. My uncle John Gilbert -- this is your family also here -- they all came here. They all worked down in the foundry, you know, like, down at Bethlehem Steel, and their lives were very short. They didn't live long, because they worked [1:47:00] around coal dust and etc. They, you know, like, died young.

IG: John didn't die young.

FT: He didn't live to be my age.

IG: Yes, he did.

FT: Uncle John was what? Seventy when he died?

IG: No, my dad was --

FT: You're talking about Uncle [Joe?].

IG: My dad died in '07.

FT: You're talking about Uncle Joe.

IG: Uncle John died --

FT: No, he died a long time ago.

IG: -- right before -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: He died 20 years ago or more.

IG: No -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

EH: We weren't in the new church when he died. We've been in the new church how many years? Ten years?

IG: 2005 or something like that. (agreement) [overlapping

dialogue; unintelligible]

EH: [unintelligible] 15 years. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

IG: But Uncle John is older than my dad.

FT: Well, Uncle John has been gone almost 30 years.

IG: So, if he died -- no, [unintelligible] -- he's not  
[unintelligible] --

FT: [Jeannie?] has been dead now over 10 or 15 years.

IG: She died before Uncle John.

EH: Yeah.

BH: May I interject? [1:48:00] On the other hand, like I said  
before, where I lived in Hall's Court, we had all kinds of  
nationalities, you know. (agreement)

BH: [Lebanese?], Italians, Syrians, and they didn't have it  
too easy either. (agreement)

BH: [unintelligible] discriminated against, you know, many  
times.

EH: [unintelligible].

BH: So, we weren't the only ones catching hell.

EH: I didn't tell [unintelligible] discrimination that I had.  
When I finished and got my degree, I wasn't given a job as  
a teacher. I substituted for, like, 10 years, and the  
reason I was not given a job -- when they were going to  
hire me, the superintendent refused to hire me, because he

said with my job and my husband's job, we would be making more money than he makes. So, he did not hire me [unintelligible].

CN: And so, you both worked in the Easton school system --

BH: Yeah.

CN: -- for your careers?

EH: Right.

BH: When we got married, she didn't [1:49:00] stay in South [Dakota?] school, because she came up here, and we had, what? Our first child [unintelligible]?

EH: Yeah.

BH: Yes. And then she wanted to go back to school, okay? And we couldn't afford it, so she took a job as an aide. In those days, if you were an aide, they would pay your way to school. Okay? So, for eight years, you know, she was an aide, you know, having two or three more kids, going back and forth to East Stroudsburg, and she finally finished it. Okay? Because our last child was born on her graduation day. She never went to graduation because she had the baby (laughs), you know. Now, that was eight years it took her to get that degree, okay? Now, normally, when a person works eight years in the district, and you come to work for Easton School District, you could probably get a job, because they know you.

EH: I know some people that started with me that did that.

BH: Yeah. A lot of people that started with her got jobs, but it took eight more years for them to hire her [1:50:00].

IG: Who was the superintendent at the time?

BH: I'm not even sure.

EH: I know [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: No, you can say.

EH: [Beers?].

FT: But, now, Liz mentioned -- you mentioned, you know, like, equal pay.

EH: Not --

FT: The women's pay is still not equal to a man.

EH: Not equal pay. Between he and I together.

FT: Together? Oh, okay. I misunderstood -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: -- [unintelligible] because women still don't get -- their pay is still not on the level with the males in this country. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: That's one of the reasons. And, you know, for eight years we tried to figure out why the hell they didn't, you know, hire her like they do everybody else.

IG: Yeah. That's --

BH: Eight years.

IG: -- [unintelligible] more than I'm used to see  
[unintelligible].

BH: And she had [put?] -- so that's 16 years. Eight years as  
an aide, going back to school, do eight more years just  
subbing [unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible] I was in childcare for eight years.

BH: Yes.

IG: So, you don't make as much as I do.

BH: Yeah, [unintelligible]. And I could tell you many, many  
more stories.

EH: [unintelligible].

IG: [unintelligible].

BH: [unintelligible].

EH: My point is -- I mean, it didn't [1:51:00] [unintelligible]  
me at all. That's what I was saying.

IG: [unintelligible].

EH: It [unintelligible] come from, you know, [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible].

KB: But how did they feel when their children came into the  
[unintelligible]?

EH: Well, after I got hired -- let me tell you the story.  
After I got hired, the superintendent that came afterward  
realized that they needed more minority teachers.

BH: Right.

KB: Yeah.

EH: So, they hired us to go down south and look for --

BH: Teachers.

EH: -- teachers [unintelligible].

BH: Alabama; Georgia. We went all over.

EH: We went all over.

KB: I remember that.

EH: South Carolina; North Carolina; [unintelligible].

IG: That just makes me --[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: That just makes me so mad. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] did the same thing to us, you know, like,  
[unintelligible] down to South Carolina [EMT?] to look for  
people, you know, like, to come up to work --

EH: [unintelligible].

FT: -- and [unintelligible], because they said, you know, like,  
there were no blacks qualified, you know, like,  
[unintelligible] --

EH: [unintelligible].

FT: -- to put into those positions. Now, one of the biggest  
companies in the world right now just humiliated [1:52:00]  
Philadelphia. Now, who was that?

KB: Amazon.

FT: Amazon.

BH: Yeah, yeah.

FT: What did they get on national TV and say? "We turned Philadelphia down because, you know, like, we felt that they didn't have enough qualified people to fill our positions."

IG: That's a lie.

KB: That's what they said?

FT: But that's what they said on national TV, and they --  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: -- they went to New York.

IG: Oh, they chose New York.

FT: They chose New York, and the other site was South Carolina they were supposed to go to.

BH: Yeah, I remember that.

FT: But, now, I'm saying this because, you know, like, Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love. There are more black folks in the city of Philadelphia than any other city in the country. And I'm saying, "Oh, my God, I know that they didn't just get on TV and say that," but the man got up there and said it and said, "We turned Philadelphia down because we did not feel that, you know, like, we could find enough qualified workers, you know, like, to fill our positions."

IG: That was the first place that I saw --

FT: That's what he said, and that was three weeks ago.

IG: That was the first place that I saw a black [teller?].

FT: And I said, "Oh" --

IG: I came home, and I was, like, [bragging?]. I said, "Wow, Philadelphia [1:53:00] has black" -- this was in 1959, you know. And I was like --

BH: The [thing?] is [unintelligible] --

IG: -- "Wow" --

BH: -- in 1959.

IG: And you go to the department store, and there were salesladies. They didn't have any salespeople here in Easton that were black.

BH: They just started.

KB: You know, I remember -- and this is something that happened, and it had to be, like, in '63, '64 down at [Mo Higgins?].

BH: (laughs) Oh, boy.

KB: My mother and the NAACP and me -- we picketed that --

BH: I remember that.

KB: -- that thing for all of those days down there. And --

LR: [It was late?] [unintelligible].

KB: -- [Frances Ketchin?] got the job as the first black [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: [unintelligible] Higgins?

KB: At Mo Higgins' [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: We used to always go there. (agreement)

KB: It was [Art Robbins?] --

BH: But not work.

KB: -- was with the NAACP at the time, and they -- I forget how many days. But I'll never forget, [Danny Cohen?] [1:54:00] -- they used to come and bring us hot chocolate.

BH: I remember that.

KB: We were out there marching in the cold and --

CN: What was the protest for?

KB: I beg your pardon?

CN: What was the protest about?

KB: Because they wouldn't hire any blacks to work in the store. And so, they held out for a long time, and then eventually they did hire -- Frances Ketchin was the first person to be hired as a [teller?] [unintelligible].

FT: So, besides the steel mill -- and women didn't work in the steel mill -- from those migration people that were coming from Cuthbert, you know, like, what job did they have?

BH: Sewing machine.

KB: Well, my [unintelligible] --

IG: Steel [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

FT: Everybody [unintelligible] steel mill.

BH: [unintelligible] went to work in that textile place

[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: [unintelligible] factories. Yeah, there were all kinds of -- pants factories, [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: That's why I asked. [unintelligible] wasn't around here.

KB: So, there was [unintelligible], and then [Dixie Cup?], and it was a long time before Dixie --

IG: And Dixie Cup was funny [1:55:00].

KB: Right, at [unintelligible] long time before they started hiring blacks here. But [unintelligible] was one that had -- that was tubing. They made tubes for TV. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: Well, now, I remember getting here, and it was a big deal that I think [Beverly Israel?] became one of the first secretaries in Easton, and she became a secretary -- what was [Art Ravers'?] business?

IG: Oh, the [toy store]? [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: Yeah, and that was a big thing, because that was in the paper, you know, like, that she was a secretary -- she became a secretary for Art Ravers, because Lee Harris was the salesman there.

BH: Right.

FT: He was the first black salesman, you know, like, that they

ever had in the back.

BH: And Art Ravers was one of those individuals who was completely fair.

KB: Yes.

BH: Completely fair. He didn't care what color you were as long as you could do the job, and that's why she got hired.

FT: Okay.

BH: Usually, in cases like that, it's the people up above that are causing the problem, not the people on the job [1:56:00] so much, see. And in schools, it's not the principals or the teachers; it's the school board that gives the orders, see. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible] took her 16 years to get a job, see, and that's why -- that's one of the reasons why I ran for city council, you know. I said, "Hey, if I do win, I know one thing, that I'm going to be fair regardless of who it is," and that's why I ran for city council, see. And on city council, you know, we had [a problem?] with people that came in, but I said, "Hey, we're going to treat them fair," and that's all people want, see. That's all she wanted.

IG: Is fairness.

BH: Sixteen years. Sixteen years, because someone on that school board didn't have the guts enough to make the call

the right way. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] I was trying to make.

KB: I do want to say this [unintelligible] what Bill was saying about Art Ravers. He was one of the ones that was down there marching [unintelligible] --

BH: Oh, yeah.

KB: -- [unintelligible]. (agreement)

KB: Art Ravers was [unintelligible] --

IG: He was a very good activist. (agreement)

IG: -- right from the start. And Danny [1:57:00] Cohen.

BH: Danny Cohen [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

KB: Danny was a young kid --

BH: Yeah, but he was fair.

KB: Yes.

BH: He was fair.

KB: Yes.

IG: Yeah.

KB: And [Mrs. Freeman?]. (agreement)

IG: And [Mrs. Boyer?]. (agreement)

BH: They were good leaders.

IG: But they were black.

KB: Yea.

IG: It just went out of my head (laughs).

BH: It'll come back.

FT: Okay, now, we're going back to Cuthbert, bringing up the people. When did the Pratt family arrive here? Now, they came out of Cuthbert.

BH: When I got here in '44, around '44, '45, because I remember when [Peewee?] came [aboard?] on Western. They lived on [unintelligible] West Street, you remember? (agreement)

BH: We were in first grade together.

FT: Well, I know my dad and Mr. Pratt and them -- they went to school together. Now, I know [Eunice?], [Mary Alice?], and Peewee -- they were born in Cuthbert before they left.

BH: Yeah, [unintelligible] --

FT: [unintelligible] they had three kids before, you know, like, [unintelligible] -- before they left [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: [unintelligible] [Gene?] was here [unintelligible].

KB: Wait a minute. Peewee [1:58:00] -- Eunice and Peewee --

FT: He was three.

KB: -- and [Thelma?] Jean --

BH: One was born here.

KB: -- were born in Cuthbert. Thelma Jean -- (agreement)

BT: I know --

KB: So, [unintelligible] the oldest three.

FT: Right. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: I know there were three kids before they left Cuthbert,

because they used to come over to the house a lot, and I know [Willie?] was the first kid that was born here in Pennsylvania, but I don't know what year that is. But I know he's a couple years older than me.

BH: We always called them the Pratts, you know, because his dad worked on the Lehigh [family?] with my dad, and that's how Peewee and I got hooked up to be good friends in -- you know, throughout all junior high school and high school.  
(agreement)

KB: They came when -- after Thelma Jean was born, and then they [unintelligible] --

BH: Yes, she was born here.

KB: -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

KB: Now, that's my mom's brother. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] Thelma Jean --

KB: That's how we got here.

FT: You said Thelma Jean --

IG: The third one.

KB: Thelma Jean was -- Eunice is the oldest, then Peewee, and then Thelma Jean. Those are the oldest kids, and then [unintelligible] --

FT: They were born in Cuthbert, right?

KB: They were born in Cuthbert.

FT: Right, that's what I said. Okay [1:59:00]. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: I remember in school the teacher would ask, you know, where you're from, you know, and all the black people would say, "Cuthbert, Georgia" (laughs).

IG: Dr. Smith -- was Dr. Smith the one that messed the whole thing up by tearing down 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Lehigh Street --

EH: Redevelopment -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: [unintelligible] Smith. He was a doctor. And I said he must have been the most racist, hateful bigot there was. I came back from college, and it was -- I said, "What happened to Easton? They tore down everything." They messed up the community. Those Lebanese people had their church right in the center of the [dock?]. Everybody had to go to St. Michael. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: [unintelligible] know why, you know, like, they created, you know, like, redevelopment?

IG: [They didn't want us all coming together, just like?] [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

FT: Just look at what's going on today. [2:00:00] When you're together, you've got strength.

IG: That's what I'm saying.

FT: You've got numbers. Like you were saying, you know, like,

we had black neighborhoods. You don't have a black neighborhood in Easton anymore. We don't have a black neighborhood in Allentown. Redevelopment, you know, like, came through and destroyed all of that.

BH: Sure did.

FT: And who is coming in now and creating neighborhoods? It's the Hispanics. (agreement)

FT: -- because they know, "If we stay together, we've got power." They came in and split up our neighborhoods and made us weak. We don't even know --

EH: That's what happened.

FT: -- you know, like, where people live anymore. And at one time, you could just walk across the street, and you knew you were going to one of the neighbors' home and etc. Redevelopment was created from the high powers and say, "Okay, we want to make them weak" --

BH: "Tear it down."

KB: [He was a bigot?].

FT: "Tear it down" --

KB: [unintelligible] [bigot?].

FT: -- and etc. and took [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: -- and look what it was.

KB: Now, I have to tell you --

FT: It was [prime land?]. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

FT: [2:01:00] [unintelligible] 5<sup>th</sup> Street and etc. Look what's  
going on around in there now.

BH: Tore down Hall's Court. That's where I lived. I had to  
move to South Side.

KB: But, now, let's go back, and let's look at this here,  
because you and I lived there.

BH: [No?].

KB: We lived there, and I have to tell you, the best thing they  
did for me was tear down where we lived. We were in Easton  
in 1965 when they tore down where we lived.

BH: I remember that.

KB: We did not have a bathtub in the house.

EH: That's how they got that movement in --

KB: Right.

EH: -- because [unintelligible] --[overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

KB: Because it was [everything?]. The living conditions were  
not good. We had an oil stove [unintelligible] that almost  
burned us down a couple times. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

KB: There were places that needed to be torn down, and where I  
lived, they needed to tear it down.

BH: You're [unintelligible] --

KB: I'm telling you the truth. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

KB: The living conditions were terrible.

FT: Let me ask this question. There was nobody in the  
community that said, "Hey, look, you know, like, [2:02:00]  
if you can tear it down, then give us the money, you know,  
like, to rebuild." [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: And he left it. He left it. It was just empty --

EH: Left it for years.

KB: Just for years. That's why when I came home from school, I  
was like, "What's going on? What happened?"

IG: But now, this is what happened. I lived it, so I know.  
When they tore down the first -- they did the tearing-down  
in sections. They tore down from one side of West Street,  
which was -- I guess it would be the west side of West  
Street. They tore it down, and they went all the way up to  
[Maple?] Street and tore all that down. When they tore  
that down, because I was still living on West Street on the  
other side when they built the [Walter House?], which is  
right there now -- so they did build something there right  
away, and that was the senior citizen housing. They did  
that [2:03:00].

BH: Right, I remember that.

IG: Then they tore down our side, and once -- because they had started occupying the building in '65 when I -- when they tore -- they were occupying the Walter House. Then they tore down us, and then, in 1968, they opened up the [Harlan?] House. [unintelligible] --

IG: Where was the [Sheraton Club]?

KB: The Sheraton came afterwards. That was back in [unintelligible].

IG: It was [unintelligible] blank.

IG: It was blank for a long time.

BH: Now, the '55 flood did a lot of damage to those houses.

KB: Right.

BH: A lot of them had to come down. (agreement)

IG: But, see, they didn't have -- in the Lebanese neighborhood, they just --

BH: Oh, they just -

IG: -- wrecked that -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: And the Syrians [unintelligible].

BH: [unintelligible] [all the way down?].

IG: Yeah.

KB: And they came down, and then --

IG: And they never forgot. The Lebanese and Syrians right now, today --

KB: Well, if you remember, when they -- the West -- the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Street, Lehigh Street, and down to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street stayed empty for a good while -- (agreement)

KB: -- [before?] the Sheraton, because [2:04:00] they were supposed to do that. But some of the houses that they tore down were houses that were good, but I guess they thought they could not leave them there. But you know down in Hall's Court, because I had friends in Hall's Court --

BH: I lived there.

KB: -- and I'm telling you -- and they -- think about what it was like when you were there. But by the time my generation came around, which was in the '50s and the '60s --

BH: Right, [apathy?] [unintelligible].

KB: -- they needed to come down.

BH: Yeah. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: You keep saying, you know, like, they tore it down. We understand all of that. But where did the people go?

BH: They went everywhere.

KB: They went everywhere. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: They went to South Side, but -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: He tore down South Side, too, [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: All of [Stewart?] Street and all of [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: [unintelligible] came back in -- I graduated in '67.  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: [2:05:00] They didn't tear [unintelligible] till '73.

BH: Because I lived in Hall's Court [unintelligible] side.

KB: 1973, Shiloh had their last service in that church.

IG: In that church [unintelligible] --

KB: In that church.

IG: -- [unintelligible] the corner. And [unintelligible] --

FT: [unintelligible] white church?

KB: No, it was a brick church.

IG: [unintelligible] --

FT: [unintelligible] --

IG: -- got a big, giant organ that they had to pay back --  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: Now, the little white church I'm talking about --

BH: [unintelligible] --

FT: -- [unintelligible] up on the hill there.

BH: [unintelligible]. No, I went to church there when I first came.

FT: Now, Shiloh had the little white church up on the hill, too, before --

IG: [unintelligible] Street. They took [unintelligible]

Street, they took Center, where our little sweet shop was.  
They hated that, so they took all that.

FT: [unintelligible] church --

IG: And Mrs. Robinson -- luckily, he didn't get that house, but  
he knew he would have gotten [spit?] back on that because  
that house is so beautiful. Your house right there on the  
corner. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: But they got a lot, but they did [unintelligible]. You  
know [unintelligible] --

KB: Yeah, [unintelligible] --

IG: -- [unintelligible] beautiful. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

KB: [Over the center line?] [2:06:00] --

IG: [unintelligible] over to [Iron?], almost over to [Canal?]  
Street.

EH: [unintelligible] to [Valley?] Street.

BH: Took the sweet shop. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

IG: Yeah, to Valley, to Valley. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

IG: It went all the way to Canal and then back.

FT: [unintelligible] I have a question to ask. Before they  
built the first, you know, like, church, where the Shiloh  
chapel is sitting at now, because there were two churches

there --

BH: Right.

FT: Okay? The first one that we built there, you know, had --

KB: [We didn't build that one?].

FT: Yes, we did. It had --

KB: [unintelligible] --

FT: -- a three-bedroom apartment, you know, like, on the top --

KB: [unintelligible] you're way [unintelligible].

BH: No, that wasn't it.

KB: No, no, no, no. No, no, no. [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

FT: The pulpit got turned around. You know, like, the pulpit  
[was at the other end?] -- [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

FT: That's what I said. You know, like, before the church got  
built then, where was Shiloh at then? [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: The same spot.

LR: The same spot.

IG: Same place.

FT: But then that's what I'm talking about. I became an usher  
in there in 1965, and it wasn't that church, and I know  
this. When I first came here -- [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

LR: [It was a different building, same spot?].

FT: [unintelligible]? Okay. Well, then it was in the same spot, but I know it was a wooden church.

KB: No, it wasn't. It was brick.

IG: No, it was brick [2:07:00].

BH: It was brick.

KB: It was brick.

IG: We've got pictures of it. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: I know [Michael Swint?] and I used to have to stand outside, because the groundhog, you know, like, used to tear up that place, and we had wooden steps out there. I stood on one side of the steps, and he stood on the other side, because the steps used to rock back and forth. And my [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: -- last day of ushering in that church was September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1968, because September 9th I was in [Pittsburgh?] and inducted in the United States Army, and I know that for a fact. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: I have pictures of the church.

IG: Yeah.

KB: I have pictures of the inside, the outside of the church. It is a brick church.

IG: [unintelligible].

BH: It was brick.

KB: It was a Methodist church that they bought in --

IG: The white people.

KB: -- 1924.

FT: I don't know what it was before, but I know it was Shiloh that I joined.

KB: Well, that was not Shiloh.

CN: Can we go back to Hall's Court for a minute and hear what it was like before it was demolished?

BH: Okay. Let's see now. [2:08:00] Because I lived in Hall's Court straight out of Florida. Like I said, you had to go through three alleys to get to my house. I thought it was a house, but it wasn't a house. It was really an apartment, okay? You had to go through the alleys. Every once in a while, you stepped over a bum to get there, you know. And back in there, there were one, two -- four apartments above ground, and then there were two down below. In order to get to them, you had to go down [Washington?] Street and come around.

KB: Did the Boyers live there?

BH: No, they lived down the street.

KB: Oh, okay.

BH: [unintelligible] lived there.

KB: Okay.

BH: [unintelligible]?(agreement)

BH: They lived right next to us.

IG: The [primes?] were right on [unintelligible].

BH: [unintelligible]. (agreement)

BH: Anyway, Hall's Court was right -- the back of our apartment was Washington Street. I could look over the porch and look up and see [unintelligible] all up there playing, and that was our recreation, matter of fact, you know. So, anyway, [2:09:00] Hall's Court -- when they tore Hall's Court down -- before they tore it down, we moved to South Side, okay? Because they gave us --

EH: That was before redevelopment.

BH: Yeah, yeah.

IG: I thought you lived on Canal Street [unintelligible].

BH: I did. That's --

EH: [unintelligible].

BH: -- when we moved to Canal Street. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: Okay? The next thing I know, they're with their --

KB: [unintelligible].

BH: -- tearing up the whole place.

KB: [unintelligible].

BH: That's what it was, because I went to seventh grade --

yeah, seventh grade -- at --

IG: At [Shaw?].

BH: -- Shaw. That's when I came over, you know. I was, you know, a north-sider, and then I was going to go to the south side. That was [unintelligible] experience, too, because we -- it turned out South Side was a bad place to move. That's what they told us over on the north side. "Don't move to South Side. Nothing but blacks and poor whites." And that's the reputation South Side had then. So, I was scared to death going over there, you know. But I was an athlete, so, you know, I was, you know, greeted with welcoming arms, and I got to like it, see. And --

IG: Because we were nice, and the sun shone better on the south side [2:10:00].

BH: (laughs) You know what? You're right.

IG: [unintelligible] south side.

BH: I found out that that's probably the best place in Easton to live, is South Side.

IG: Yep, [unintelligible].

BH: Number one, because, you know, it's a mixed neighborhood. There are whites over there, blacks over there, Italians over there, and they all get along. But the idea on the north side before I moved over there -- north-side people wouldn't to go to South Side because they thought, "It's

poor whites and blacks." See, they looked down on South Side, and that's one reason I didn't want to go over there. But my mama said, "Okay, you're going," so we moved over there, and it ended up being probably the best move of my life, see. And eventually they tore Canal Street down, and we had to move up where my mother, you know, used to live. But I know all about that, because I tell kids -- when I was on the north side, eight trains a night would come by. Zoom, zoom, zoom, because [unintelligible] --

IG: I loved it.

BH: -- only [50 feet?] from the river and --

IG: I loved it.

BH: -- about 10 feet from the railroad, you know.

IG: And right now, to this day, there isn't [2:11:00] one place that I've lived that doesn't have either a river or a train. It's just, like, engrained in me, you know, and I just sleep [unintelligible].

BH: [unintelligible] South Side, I was even closer to the river on the other side. Eight trains a night; zoom, zoom, zoom. I tell kids that's why noise doesn't bother me today. You try to sleep through eight trains a night for 10 years; you'll be used to noise, too. I got where if it didn't come by, I couldn't go to sleep, you know. And I stayed there until I left for college, see, because that was

[unintelligible].

IG: And Maple Street. Remember [unintelligible]?

BH: Oh, yeah.

IG: See, Maple Street was where I lived, all the way out, the last house that you could get to before you fell down the hill [unintelligible].

BH: Yeah (laughs).

IG: I lived in that house. It was an apartment house; it was two stories, and my uncle George had actually lived there with his family. He was there first. We had the second floor. We had an icebox; the ice man used to come and [2:12:00] put ice in there, and we had it in the little vestibule, so we didn't have to be home, because he wouldn't come into our house. He could just go in the vestibule. There was the icebox --

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: -- he'd put the ice in. And [Sarah?] [unintelligible] --

BH: Yeah, Sarah [unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible].

IG: -- was at the bottom. And the official address was 440 Washington Street for that store, and I was 318 South Maple. But it was the second floor; I had that view of the river, and I had the sound of the trains, and it was just -  
- I mean, if you had an apartment like that now today, you

would pay \$1,500 for the view and for, you know --

BH: It was nice.

IG: -- the nice apartment, you know, like that. But anyway, so that was Maple Street on that side. Then there was Washington Street hill, and then there's Maple Street on the other side, which is where Walter House that Kat was talking about was built. And so, they eventually did take down all of our [2:13:00] Maple Street, and that's [Praxis?] now, and what's the other one? I guess the Alzheimer's place.

KB: Alzheimer's place.

IG: But Praxis is actually where [unintelligible] --

KB: [unintelligible] Alzheimer's. It's Easton Nursing now.

IG: Easton Nursing is where -- that used to be my Maple Street.  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: And my rock is still there. It was this huge rock -- I guess it was too big to move -- about as big as this table.

BH: I remember that.

IG: You remember that rock?

BH: Yeah (laughs).

IG: And that was right over the -- right at the edge of the cliff, you know, and the boys used to always climb over that and stuff. Girls didn't do that. But that rock is still there, and I still look for it every time I go down

that hill on [unintelligible].

BH: What's [unintelligible]?

KB: Can you --

BH: [unintelligible]?

IG: Sarah [Shah-Shah?], and [Patty?], who used to take play money. We used [to give him play money?].

KB: He was down there with [Doc Kelly?] [unintelligible] he moved at the bottom.

IG: Yeah, and the [Fredericks?] were at the end -- the other end.

BH: Were you --

KB: I thought you -- I thought that you all lived across -- Sarah Shah-Shah was here, [2:14:00] and we used to go in there and take -- steal from [unintelligible].

EH: Did you?(laughter)

IG: [unintelligible] pick up a piece of [unintelligible] candy. Over here on the corner, that was -- remember when the kid --

KB: [unintelligible] --

IG: They used to -- that corner house was this big, heavysset -- this one big --

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: It was two heavysset ladies. And remember the two -- [Shirl?], and what was Shirl's sister?

BH: [unintelligible] --

KB: [Tootsie?]

IG: Tootsie.

BH: [unintelligible] used to go there and play  
[unintelligible]?

IG: I think that was around the corner, the other big, heavysset  
--

BH: Yeah.

IG: -- and they had the tall, skinny boyfriend.

BH: Yeah, yeah, I remember that (laughs).

IG: And -- shut up, [Bits?]. (laughter)

IG: Okay, so Tootsie and [Marilyn?] used to come down --

KB: Oh, yeah, that's [unintelligible] --

IG: -- all the time to see their aunt, and she was a big lady,  
but not that big, okay?

BH: Right, right.

IG: And then next to her was somebody I can't remember.  
[Lainey?] was next to her.

KB: Right.

IG: And she [unintelligible].

KB: [unintelligible], right.

IG: Okay? And then, next to Aunt Lainey [2:15:00] was --

KB: [Willa Bulger?].

IG: Yeah, and then, next to --

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: -- Willa Bulger was [Annie?] and Uncle Adel. (agreement)

IG: And then that was it for that side.

BH: Were you there --

KB: [unintelligible].

BH: -- that one day [unintelligible] --

IG: Yes.

BH: -- when the [soda truck?] --

KB: [unintelligible].

IG: Yeah.

BH: -- [unintelligible] to take -- you know, [sent the drinks?] to the balcony to give the sodas to Shah-Shah, and the truck tipped over --

IG: Oh, yeah, yeah.

BH: -- and all the sodas went down over the bank and [unintelligible] --

IG: [unintelligible] --

BH: I know, but then on the other side they were there, and --

KB: [unintelligible].

BH: -- the driver said, "Where can I get some help?" and someone said (laughs), "Go in the store, and, you know, use the phone," and when he went in the store, people came out of every alley and home. When that man came back, all the sodas were gone.

IG: Well, guess what he said? Remember what he said? He said,  
"Go ahead and take what you want."

BH: Yeah, yeah. I took a case [unintelligible].

IG: I'm talking about a tractor-trailer the way --

BH: Oh, thousands of sodas.

IG: -- they used to be. Not closed in, but the way the soda  
trucks used to be was they were open [2:16:00], and they --  
and each case -- wooden cases -- and they would be stacked  
up precisely. And you know what Washington Hill looks  
like, okay? (agreement)

BH: Oh, it's steep.

IG: You know what it looks like.

KB: It was steeper then.

IG: He made it down halfway, and he went right onto -- we were  
talking about --

KB: Oh, yeah, [unintelligible] --

IG: He went to her uncle and aunt's.

KB: [Lucy?] and [Chick's?] house. He went into the bathroom.

IG: No, [Cheryl and Doug's?].

KB: Oh --

BH: He was over on that side.

IG: Yeah, [unintelligible] [paper on the pole?] [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible].

BH: [unintelligible] half the sodas went down the bank, you

know, and brothers went down and got those. Then brothers came out of every alley, every house.

IG: [unintelligible].

BH: It took about three minutes to empty that truck (laughs).

IG: They were mad at the people that had big families like the [Myers?] and stuff, you know. But, yeah, we had a good time. We were drinking soda for weeks. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: Because he said [2:17:00], "Go ahead and take it."

BH: Yeah, he was just the driver. He didn't care.

IG: Yeah, he didn't care.

BH: They emptied that truck out [unintelligible].

KB: Well, [unintelligible] talking about down at Hall's Court. In that area there, it was, like, from 4th Street down to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and it was from Lehigh Street, which is no longer there, which is now [Michael Corey's?] place, which stops, and it went straight down to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. And that block over to Washington Street -- that where Hall's Court was, and a lot of Lebanese were on the Lehigh Street area.

EH: And [unintelligible].

KB: And the church was over there, and the [Prides?] lived there.

BH: Yeah, the Prides lived there.

KB: And there were businesses there. They took --

IG: [And Mildred?].

KB: Right. They all had [unintelligible]. They had a banana  
[unintelligible] --

BH: Yeah, [George's Banana?].

KB: Yes, [unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible] first place was there, too. (agreement)

KB: And when you went on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, they had all [2:18:00]  
those businesses down there, because there were so many  
businesses down there: the restaurants and --

BH: The one thing I remember --

IG: [unintelligible] --

BH: -- [unintelligible] bananas -- when they brought the  
bananas in, as kids, we used to go over there [and pretend  
to?] look out for snakes.

KB: And spiders.

IG: And spiders.

BH: Yeah. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: [unintelligible] spiders.

KB: I saw my first tarantula there, and [unintelligible]. I  
was like, "Oh, [unintelligible]." (laughter) [overlapping  
dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: Somebody died from a tarantula bite.

KB: Yeah.

BH: I was looking for snakes.

IG: And remember the fat man that lived down from [Ruby?] and them? There was, like, an alley or something --

KB: [The sweeper?].

IG: He was a white man --

BH: No, it was a [bus?]. [unintelligible].

KB: He owned that warehouse [where the bus we were riding?] --

BH: No, he was black.

IG: No, this guy was white, and we thought he was a predator or something. We didn't know. But anyway, we just used to call him the "fat man". He had a furniture place --

KB: Yes, yes, [2:19:00] [unintelligible].

IG: -- and he would always be sitting on the step --  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: [Leonard?].

IG: And when we'd come home from [unintelligible] school, we'd say, "Hey, Mr. Fat Man, give us a nickel."

BH: (laughs)

IG: And he'd reach in his pocket, and he'd give us nickels.

KB: That was Mr. Leonard. That's why I'm thinking now --

IG: [unintelligible] that guy was a predator.

KB: But you know something --

IG: [unintelligible] (laughs).

KB: -- you used to always have furniture [unintelligible].

IG: Yeah, [unintelligible].

KB: Because [bus sweeper's?] house was here, then the alley,  
and you went down, and then the [unintelligible] --

BH: I remember that.

KB: -- back there, and there was a big old warehouse. And his  
name was Leonard[unintelligible]. (agreement)

BH: When we first got here from Florida, we went down there to  
get a kitchen table. I remember it like yesterday. It was  
[maybe that?] --

KB: Leonard Furniture.

BH: What's that -- what do you call that stuff?

KB: [unintelligible] [same thing?] --

BH: Porcelain, whatever. It was a table, and we didn't have  
any -- well, we didn't have any money. We used to have  
crates to eat on for about the first six months until we  
finally got some chairs, you know. And the table folded  
up, you know. And when my mother passed away, she had that  
table up in the attic. [2:20:00] Now I have it, you know -  
-

IG: Good.

BH: -- and I put it away, you know, in the basement. But it  
had a little chip on it; when I dropped something one time,  
it chipped that table. But I've still got that table from  
way back there in 1944.

IG: I'm keeping mine, too.

BH: I'm keeping mine, too (laughs).

IG: And I've got the trunk that they came up from down south on the train with. I've got that trunk.

BH: Boy.

IG: I'm sure they had a rope tied around it. You know, the shoebox full of fried chicken, or a big basket (laughs) full of fried chicken.

KB: Yeah, because you couldn't stop and get anything to eat.

BH: You couldn't stop for anything. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [You had to?] go to the bathroom out in the woods.  
[unintelligible].

IG: I don't even know if they had the -- if they [could?] on the train, because I think they came on the train  
[unintelligible].

BH: Well, that's [unintelligible] idea, because the black folks used to bring lunches on the train, you know.

[unintelligible] bring all the chicken and stuff and started eating it, and they say that's how Sanders made his money --

IG: Colonel Sanders.

BH: -- [unintelligible] eating those chickens, or that chicken, and so he [unintelligible] Colonel Sanders  
[unintelligible].

IG: I wouldn't be surprised.

BH: (laughs)

CN: [2:21:00] [Do you guys?] --

IG: [unintelligible] the fat man was fat and dirty. He was always so dirty (laughs).

KB: [He did?].

IG: He was just dirty (laughs).

KB: He was. [unintelligible].

BH: It was right after the war, and I didn't realize it was right after -- what do you call it?

IG: [unintelligible] [Used?] furniture. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: What do you call it [unintelligible]? [Pearle Vision?] and all that stuff. (agreement)

BH: And there were bums all over the place, but they were good bums. [unintelligible].

IG: Yeah, [they were?] good bums.

BH: [unintelligible] --

CN: What about the interiors of Hall's Court? Do you guys have memories of what the interiors --

BH: Yeah, [unintelligible].

CN: Like, what was that architecture like?

BH: Well --

KB: The houses?

CN: Yeah.

BH: Like I said before, I didn't know it was an apartment until we moved eight years later. I always called it my house, see. As soon as you walk in, the kitchen was there, with a stove. Now, not the kind of stove you have in your house now. It was a stove that you needed this thing to lift and burn coal. Not only did you cook your grits on the stove, that was the heat. [2:22:00] We would go down to the railroad and get buckets of coal [that fell off?] the trains, and we would bring them up to the house and store them in the summer, and that's what kept us warm all winter.

EH: [unintelligible].

BH: It'd get so hot that -- those things would get so hot that you could almost see through them, you know? Not only was it cooking, it was also heating your whole house. And then we had a little oil stove, you know. They called it "kerosene"; we call it "[care-seen?]" in those days. You'd go to down to [Foley's?] store, and he would give you a gallon. You'd come back, put that in the little heater, and you put that in the middle room. Okay? And turn that on, and that was your heat for the whole house.

IG: And we didn't know that was dangerous and that they don't recommend [unintelligible] kerosene.

BH: (laughs) No, we didn't know. And we were lucky: we had an inside bathroom. We were lucky, okay? Everybody else [2:23:00] had outside toilets, see. You had a toilet and a place to wash your hands, see. Then the way you washed your body on Saturday nights, you had a tub of water, see. [Bring?] that tub down, put it on the floor, put the hot water on the stove. It was red-hot, you know. You poured it in the tub three or four times, then added some water. And I was the youngest, so my brother would get in there first (laughs), and I would keep telling him, "Don't pee in the water." (laughter)

IG: Yes, please.

BH: (laughs) Then he would get out, you know. It would be lukewarm. We'd jump in, you know, wash up, something like that, you know, put your pajamas on, and go to bed. And you did that once a week, see. You didn't take a shower every day like --

IG: Saturday night. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: -- [unintelligible] like that.

KB: Saturday night was bath night.

BH: Saturday night was bath night. You had a [unintelligible]  
--

KB: That's why I'm saying --

BH: You'd just wash off in the mornings, you know, [under your

arms?] and stuff, and go on to school.

KB: We had a toilet. We didn't even have a sink in the bathroom. No, but we just had a toilet, and that was it [2:24:00]. We had to wash and everything [unintelligible] --

BH: That's [unintelligible].

KB: -- heat water, everything [unintelligible] day just to take a -- you know, [unintelligible] --

IG: Your --

KB: -- wash every day.

IG: -- face and back.

KB: But you had to do that --

EH: [unintelligible].

KB: -- you [had wash back?], and that was it.

BH: Now, my --

KB: [unintelligible], you know, getting in the shower [unintelligible] --

BH: Shower? That's why [I appreciate?] [unintelligible].

KB: -- [unintelligible] until we moved to the projects after we were relocated from when they tore the house down.

BH: I wanted to live in the projects (laughs).

KB: Yeah. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

KB: We had [no?] -- I mean, it was really just that bad.

[unintelligible] --[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: You [unintelligible] in the wintertime. Oh, my God.

KB: My mom paid \$12 [unintelligible] --

IG: Just like today.

BH: Yeah, yeah.

KB: She paid \$12 a month rent. That's what she paid.

BH: What'd we pay? I think we paid \$22 or something like that, and that was hard to get. Then you had the light bill, you know. Every once in a while, you couldn't make the light bill; they'd cut it off. You had to go down to the store and turn it back on.

IG: That's why both parents had to work. (agreement)

BH: [unintelligible] [2:25:00] [water?], same thing.

IG: Ours was just about the same. Where the icebox was located, that's where the john was, and it was, like you said, just a john. (agreement)

IG: But inside the kitchen, you know, of course, you had your kitchen sink. You know, [unintelligible] --

BH: Right. Everybody [unintelligible] in the kitchen, because it was warm with that stove (laughs).

IG: And I remember it was two bedrooms, because my mom's bedroom --

BH: Yeah, we had --

IG: -- was at the front of the house, and then the living room, and then the kitchen, and then our bedroom was in the back,

and that's -- and then the front door was off the kitchen.  
So, that's the [unintelligible] that looked. But I  
remember the Saturday nights baths, the tin tub, and --

BH: And [windows?] were cold. [unintelligible] --

IG: -- [unintelligible].

KB: [unintelligible] cooking, cakes -- ooh.

BH: The cooking was good.

IG: And Mom and Pop used to -- because they were in their  
twenties, and [Lou?] was like, "Yeah, wow, they were  
young." And I remember those [Lee Jordan?] songs, you  
know, Saturday night fish fry, and, [2:26:00] yeah, all of  
those good old songs.

BH: (laughs) [unintelligible] ate grits every day.

KB: Oh, yeah.

BH: [unintelligible] [love?] some grits. [unintelligible] and  
grits.

IG: Me too.

BH: And a good biscuit.

EH: [unintelligible].

IG: And a good biscuit.

BH: With some syrup for [sogging?].

LR: (laughs)

IG: And [Lusitania?] Italian bread --

BH: Oh, yeah.

IG: -- because still I haven't found a good substitute for the Syrian bread.

BH: Oh, [unintelligible].

IG: The Syrian bread was better than the Italian bread.

BH: [Damn right?] (laughs).

IG: And I told my sister the other day -- I said, "You know what? When I was a little kid, I used to go down there to Lehigh Street, and you remember the [guy?]" --

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: -- that used to make the -- no, the corner store where we'd get candy and stuff like that. And then halfway down, in the middle of the block, sort of, like, almost across the street from the church --

KB: [Thomas?]. Yeah, Thomas.

IG: Okay -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [Lemon?] --

IG: [unintelligible] had the lemon [unintelligible] --  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible] that stuff, 1945.

IG: And I'd go down there, and I'd be sitting -- I said, "I used to sit on that stool," and I said, "I bet you I told them all of Mom and Dad's [2:27:00] business" -- (laughter)

IG: -- because I can remember myself just sitting there. Yeah, sure enough. They just loved me, you know,

[unintelligible]. And to this day, I ran into -- what was it? [Joseph's?] store? Remember Joseph's store? When he moved to the mall, and my sister and my son and I went in there one day, and that lady knew who I was. (agreement)

BH: Yeah, [unintelligible].

IG: She knew who I was. And Sarah Shah-Shah -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: -- used to give me all kinds of stuff, and [unintelligible] [Tom and Dickie?], her sons -- they hollered at me, you know, because I'd go into her store, and I'd say, "Oh, Sarah, those are the prettiest [potatoes?] I've ever seen in my life." I was [Emily Gilbert?] to the hilt. My mom could find something good out of everything, and I was -- "ooh, you've got it so pretty in here." And [Tony?] was the mean one of her sons, and Dickie -- and they come in there, and they'd be saying stuff. [2:28:00] "Get out of the way." And she'd say, "Don't you holler at her!" And when I'd get the ice creams and stuff like that, she would just make it --

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: -- a ceremony [unintelligible]. [unintelligible] (laughs).  
(laughter)

BH: [unintelligible], oh, my God.

IG: And she did keep a nice, neat store.

BH: Yeah, she did, and you could [put her on the books, too?],  
you know. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: My dad said that --

BH: [unintelligible] --

IG: -- we could have an ice cream every day --

BH: That's right.

IG: -- weekdays, right?

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: My sister thought she was getting [older?], because she was  
sending me, the little one, down there to [unintelligible],  
and she'd be safe, because she wouldn't have to -- you  
know, it's embarrassing.

KB: And that was [unintelligible] --

IG: I didn't care.

KB: That was [one thing?], too, back then. They had little  
stores --

IG: Yeah, [credit?].

KB: -- that you got [unintelligible] --

IG: Credit.

KB: -- you know, [unintelligible].

BH: [unintelligible].

KB: They came, and they paid it off.

BH: [unintelligible] --

KB: Yeah.

BH: -- was nice.

KB: [unintelligible] credit.

IG: It was nice.

BH: Some good days, you know.

KB: Yeah. You know, [Zengalis?] --

BH: [Josie Dalis?].

KB: Josie Dalis, yeah.

BH: Yeah, yeah, yeah [2:29:00].

KB: [unintelligible] I know them -- and the [bow says?], you know, right, like -- you know the [almond?] tree over [peeper?]? (agreement)

KB: That's that family.

LR: Yes.

IG: [unintelligible]?

KB: Yes, that's the [oldest?] [unintelligible].

BH: [I'll have to?] go over there.

IG: That Zengalis guy remembers.

BH: Yeah, Joe [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: I talk to him all the time about the old times [unintelligible] Street and West Street. [unintelligible].

KB: He [unintelligible] might [unintelligible] Zengalis --

BH: He does?

KB: -- [unintelligible] --

LR: [unintelligible].

BH: Is Joe still alive?

KB: I don't know. I didn't ask them --

BH: Well, I'll have to go in there.

KB: Yeah, [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

KB: And let me tell my [unintelligible]. He was like, "You know the Pratts?" and I'm like, "Yeah, they're my cousins."

BH: Yeah, he was right there.

KB: And then he was like, now he knows me. But I remember him when he was a little kid.

BH: Yeah, Joe. Because Joe and Tony --

KB: I remember, because his mom was [Rosemary?].

BH: Right, right. I remember that.

KB: And so, I went in there [looking like?] -- and we were talking one day, and I'm like, "Yeah, you're not the little kid that was running around [2:30:00] when I was a kid," because he's not too far from my age. But he's probably in his fifties, maybe early sixties.

BH: Yeah, early sixties.

KB: Yeah, maybe early sixties. And so, I'm like, "You're not that little kid." He goes, "Yeah, that was me."

IG: Because we had fun. People don't forget. And up on [Fish?] Street, all those Italian people -- they all know who we are. (agreement) They know the names, we went to school and it was just like--

BH: [That's why we?] never had any problems.

IG: They were like family. We ate at their house; they ate at our house.

CN: Right.

BH: Yeah, nobody cared about color -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: -- or what nationality. We could all swear in four different languages. (laughter)

IG: You know I did.

BH: We could swear (laughs).

IG: That's why I was really mad, but, see, that's -- that Ku Klux Klan business, that's mostly in [Williams Township?] and then in certain parts in Jersey. Like, they still can't find [Bobby Freeman?].

EH: Yeah whatever happened to him? [unintelligible]

IG: The Klan got him, but [2:31:00] we'll never know what happened, where his body is, or whatever.

BH: You had to be careful [unintelligible].

IG: But, you know, I was surprised they didn't get [Ockie Dorsey?] --

BH: [unintelligible].

IG: -- because it's funny -- right. We had so many --

BH: Well, he was a football hero too, so --

IG: -- interracial -- yeah, that's probably what saved him.

But we had so many interracial couples, and I couldn't figure out -- I said, "There must have been something about [Bruce Freeman?] that they just -- he must have just got on their nerves." But anyway, not too long ago -- what, maybe about 15, 20 -- when that guy -- not even 20 -- when that guy who's a Ku Klux Klanner wanted to have a big, giant --

LR: Rally.

IG: -- rally -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: -- up there in Williamstown, the Williams Township Klan people told him he'd better -- he's going to be the one to go, because they didn't want nobody to rock the boat.

LR: [unintelligible].

IG: So, you see, it works both ways. During the '40s, the Italians ruled. It was always safe for little kids and for people [2:32:00] because the Italians did just like they did in Vegas. "Don't come out here picking anybody's pocket and making trouble and killing and stuff like that." The mob was here. They had -- and I'm sure still are (laughs) -- but they kept Easton clean.

BH: We didn't have the crime.

IG: We didn't have any crime. None.

LR: Hardly ever.

BH: No shootings --

IG: None.

BH: -- any of that stuff.

IG: Because this was their home. So, I kind of liked Italians, you know, because they kept this -- and they used to have some good concerts. They had Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes --(agreement) [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: -- at this little ittsy-bitsy club. We were 16, and they let me in, and we were -- was it me and [Glow?] and [Bernie Simmons?]?

BH: [unintelligible] now.

IG: And [Bessie Reed?]. We saw Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, wow!

LR: [unintelligible].

BH: (laughs) Oh, my God.

IG: And --

LR: I have a question. [2:33:00] Many famous people came from Cuthbert, Georgia, including, of course, Larry Holmes. When he rose up to world championship --

BH: Right.

LR: -- what were your feelings on his success?

BH: That was one of the greatest things that ever happened to this area. Okay? That, and I guess when they say George Washington visited Easton that one time (laughs).

(laughter)

BH: But that was one of the greatest stories, and I hope they

make a movie of that one day --

IG: Me too.

BH: -- because it needs to be done. That's a story of a kid who just worked his butt off, you know. All the odds were against him, you know what I mean? And he worked hard; he stayed with it. Many times, he wanted to give up, you know, but he was encouraged to stay with it, and he just went from, you know, a kid who had a dream, and that dream came true because he worked hard.

IG: And had a wonderful mom.

BH: Oh, yes. He lived right across the street from me  
[2:34:00].

LR: [That's awesome?].

KB: And one of the things about Larry is, you know, Larry and I grew up -- he is -- Larry turns...

BH: I'm 78, so he's 68. Ten years.

KB: Yeah, he just turned 69 --

BH: Okay, right.

KB: -- in November. I turn 69 in February, so he's older than me, but we grew up together.

BH: I remember you guys.

KB: But when we lived on the corner of West Street, he lived across the street, directly across, in that apartment building there --

BH: Yeah, I remember.

KB: You know where [Flossie?] lived out in that apartment building there right on -- we were on the corner of West Street, and he was on the opposite side of the corner. And back in the day, you know, I was a bully. I was terrible.

BH: I remember (laughs).

KB: I was a bully, and Larry and I used to fight. And he'll tell you today -- he'll say, "I just let her beat me."  
(laughter) [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible] [2:35:00]  
He wouldn't that! You know, and for him, coming from Cuthbert, too, when he won that title, I was like, "I used to beat that scrawny kid up!" (laughter) You know, we used to fight all the time. And it was just, like, really surreal, because Larry --

BH: Heavyweight champion of the world.

KB: Yeah, and he's so strong--

IG: Heavyweight champ of the world!

KB: And people know it. No matter where you go, if you say you come from Easton, that's where Larry Holmes lives.  
(agreement)

KB: People will tell you that all the time.

BH: They ask you that. That's right.

KB: "Do you know him?" I'm like, "Yes, I grew up with him, and we're from the same part of town, and if you would say my

name, he'd go, 'Yeah, I know her.'" (laughter)

BH: [Good guy?].

KB: He is a good guy, and he's one of the good guys that I can honestly say never, ever turned into somebody he wasn't. He's truly who he was. Larry was that same kid. And out of all the people who made this money [2:36:00] and did everything, he never embarrassed you. (agreement) He didn't get in trouble. He wasn't, you know, into the drugs; he wasn't doing all of that stuff that a lot of famous people --

IG: He didn't even want to move.

KB: Right. He stayed right here, because he knew he could be comfortable in this little town.

IG: Yes.

BH: Right.

KB: He's true to himself, and I like that. I really like it, that he's still --

IG: I do too.

KB: And, you know, I couldn't be prouder of him than if he was my own child.

BH: That's why that statue is down in the park. That'll be there for the next [40?] years.

IG: My aunt told me -- [Aunt Miss Georgia May Harris?] -- that -- what is -- Barbara Stanwyck came from here.

BH: I didn't know that. From Cuthbert? [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: Not from Cuthbert, but from Easton, right down there at the foot of College Hill, then she moved --

EH: [unintelligible].

IG: No, at the foot of Washington Hill. She said she lived in some apartments down there, and I remember the apartments, because [Tommy Dedarrow] [2:37:00] lived in one.

BH: Yeah, I remember Tommy Dedarrow. I didn't know that.

IG: But I didn't know anybody else famous. No, wait, what about that chess guy? Didn't we have a chess guy come that [unintelligible] --[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: -- Easton [unintelligible]?

KB: Well, we had one, but he used to play on the [Kerrigans?]. They lived on College Hill. He played on Dynasty, the son. He played the son on Dynasty. I can't think of his name now, but he lived there, and Ricky Schroeder lived up there in Williamstown.

IG: That's what [unintelligible] said, but I didn't believe him. (laughter)

KB: That's what they told me. But, you know, he found other things, too.

BH: Someone told me when we were in high school that Ozzie and Harriet Nelson -- one of them --

EH: She [unintelligible].

BH: -- had some relation to Easton. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

EH: She lived on College Hill.

BH: Yeah, someone said she lived on College Hill. Okay? I don't know if it's true, but that's what I heard [2:38:00]. So, you know...

KB: And one thing I do like and I respect about Larry -- because they were trying to say he was out of Philadelphia.

BH: (laughs) He said, "No, I'm from Easton."

KB: I like that.

EH: His aunt lived down the street from -- not far from -- in Cuthbert still. Well, she died, but her children were still in the house, so... Yeah, he's from Easton. He went to school in Easton a little while.

BH: Well, it's amazing how that little area --

EH: [unintelligible].

BH: -- of Cuthbert -- I hope I'm saying it right -- you know, all these stars that come from, you know -- I can't even name them all.

EH: Roosevelt Grier came from Cuthbert [unintelligible].

IG: Yeah, that's right. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: There was a Grier that [married my grandmother?].

FT: Sixteen, you know, like, worldwide famous people came out

of Cuthbert, Georgia.

IG: Who's [that?] [unintelligible]?

FT: Rosey Grier -- Big George Knighton was the first one. You know, like, he came from out of Benevolence [2:39:00], and when they first created the ABA.

IG: What team does he play for? George?

FT: Big George -- I don't know. The ABA is not even listed. That was back in the '50s when they first did that. You know, like, Big George Knighton --

IG: [Tyrone?] played [in the ABA?].

FT: -- [unintelligible] -- they're related to Tyrone and them because Walter is his brother. He's the youngest one, and he's the only brother that's still alive now. He lives over here in Newark, because I kept --

IG: Related to the Knightons?

FT: He and his dad, [Arthur James'?] dad, [Homer?] who played with me and Booker Shorter -- their brother. You know, like, when we won our championships there, he was our -- Homer was our center, and he played with [Nate?] also on [unintelligible].

IG: And you said [Moms?] is a Gilbert. [Terrell Reeves?] --

FT: Who's a Gilbert?

IG: -- plays for the Patriots.

EH: Yeah, [unintelligible].

IG: Terrance Knighton plays for the Denver Broncos [2:40:00].  
These are the ones that Tyrone gave me. But both of their mothers are Gilbert.

FT: But football players are not world-famous, you know what I mean? Those are just [unintelligible] --

IG: No, but I'm just asking you, because you knew [unintelligible] --

FT: But, now, I'm listing the ones --

IG: -- [unintelligible].

FT: -- that you're going to pull up, and you're going to see under Winfred Rembert's, you know, like, autobiography, that, you know, like, President Carter --

KB: [unintelligible].

FT: -- got him released, you know, like, from prison in 2011. And they went and did, you know, like a video, you know, like, of all of Cuthbert. You know, like, you're going to see Andrews Street --

IG: Right.

FT: -- [Bubba Dukes'?). You're going to see [Homer Clyde's?]; you're going to see the pool room.

KB: [Straw field?].

FT: You're going to see, you know, like --

KB: Straw field?

FT: What was the -- J&J mill over in [unintelligible] --

KB: Yeah, J&J Lumber.

FT: Lumber company over there. You're going to see [Bergen's?]

--

KB: [unintelligible].

FT: -- you're going to see Villanova Street and stuff like that that they shot. You know, like, different stuff [2:41:00].

And there was --

KB: The [unintelligible] --

FT: -- white announcer. I forget his name, but he was one of the first, you know, like, announcers in football.

[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: He graduated from the University of Georgia. Liz, his house is right there by the railroad tracks, by that park. If you go there now, they've still got a big old -- the whole house on one side is off a football and has the University of Georgia on it. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

LR: Oh, [unintelligible].

FT: Yeah. It's got the University of Georgia on it, yeah.

LR: [unintelligible].

FT: And he was from there. That's where Rosey Grier used to stay when he came back home, because, you know, like, we were [unintelligible] out in the country back then from [Pumpkin Town?] back in those days. [overlapping dialogue;

unintelligible]

FT: And when he came back to town, that's where he used to stay, at that guy's house, because, you know, like, he knew him from --

LR: With the big G on the side.

FT: Right, with the big G on the side.

LR: [unintelligible].

FT: Yeah. The latest one is --

BH: What about [Raven?]?

EH: Raven is from Dawson.

FT: Right, he's from Dawson.

EH: [2:42:00] She's from Dawson.

FT: Doctor --

EH: Terry Crews -- his family is from --

FT: Oh, God --

EH: -- [unintelligible].

FT: -- you were there, Bill. What's his name? The doctor. He was a jazz musician [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: Henderson? Fletcher --

EH: Fletcher Henderson --

BH: Fletcher Henderson.

EH: -- was a [beginner of?] jazz music.

FT: Yeah, he was the first, you know, like -- one of the first blacks to play with the New York Orchestra. That's why --

IG: [unintelligible].

FT: -- [unintelligible].

BH: His house is a museum down there now. (agreement)

FT: Yeah, his house is one of the museums. You'll find that on that website also. And --

IG: But [unintelligible] Fletcher Henderson [unintelligible] jazz [unintelligible].

FT: And the singer. They've got her listed, too.

BH: The singer?

FT: She's from Lumpkin, the one you asked me about.  
(agreement)

BH: Raven-Symone?

EH: No --

FT: Not Lena Horne -- [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

CN: [Josephine?] Baker?

EH: We named her earlier.

FT: You named her earlier. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

BH: [unintelligible]?

FT: [unintelligible].

EH: [unintelligible].

IG: Oh, yeah, Eartha Kitt.

FT: Mm-hmm. And some of the ones, you know, like, they were [unintelligible] --

IG: And Little Richard.

FT: Little Richard is from Macon.

IG: Macon? Well, [2:43:00] I consider Macon close.

FT: No, [unintelligible] Cuthbert, though. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: That's a hundred and some-odd miles from [unintelligible].

IG: I know, but his singing is definitely Cuthbert.

FT: Right.

BH: Terry Crews is from [unintelligible].

IG: He still turns me on -- Little Richard.

FT: I can't remember, you know, like, all the -- I have it printed out, but I forgot and didn't bring it down. I can't remember all of the names, but, you know, like, they've only got 16 listed. Someone told me that there were some more that were from, you know, like, Cuthbert that were there back in the day.

BH: That baseball announcer -- he was a white guy.

IG: Oh --

FT: Yeah.

BH: He's [unintelligible].

IG: -- I know one: Greg Phillinganes. He spelled his name differently because he doesn't want people bothering him.

FT: Now, the Fillinganes - -

IG: He played keyboards for Michael Jackson. I forgot about

Greg.

BH: I didn't know that.

IG: Yeah, and he's on -- every time you see any kind of documentary about Michael Jackson, they'll have Greg on there, so you can see what he looks like.

FT: But, now, the Fillinganes are my first cousins, you know, like, now. I [unintelligible] --

IG: Yeah, because [2:44:00] [Molly Kelly?] -- Greg Phillinganes is -- [Arthur?] is the one brother, and Greg's dad actually is disabled. I forget what the disability is, but Arthur was telling me about what the disability was. But anyway, so he gave me the phone number of the dad, but he didn't give me -- he said, "I can't give you the phone number for Greg because he thinks people are always after him for money, because he plays for Michael Jackson."

FT: Well, now, I don't remember that, but I know --

IG: And what he did was he turned -- he spells his name with P-H, so he's Phillinganes with a P-H instead of the regular F-I.

FT: Now, [Willie James?] and [unintelligible] --

IG: Those are --

FT: -- we all went to school together. Now, they owned, you know, like, a thousand-acre farm out there -- the Fillinganes -- and along with the Odoms, they had a -- they

owned a lot of land, and the [unintelligible] --

IG: His dad was a slave-master kid.

FT: Now, the Fillinganes --

IG: That's [unintelligible].

FT: -- are the only family in Georgia that have [2:45:00]  
rights that their family can be buried on their property.

IG: And there's a [school?] --

FT: There's a law that you can't -- that has to be passed in  
order for you to do that.

BH: [unintelligible].

FT: But they got that grandfather law back in the day when they  
got the land, that if you died, you know, like, that you  
can have your [unintelligible] on their land and all of  
that other stuff.

IG: I don't even think they do it now anymore at all --

FT: [unintelligible] --

IG: -- even if you ask.

FT: No, no, no, we just buried, you know, like, one of the  
Fillinganes, you know, two years ago on the  
[unintelligible].

IG: Yeah, but that's because they already had the thing, you  
said.

FT: Right. Yeah, they had the --

IG: But --

FT: They're the only family that I know of --

IG: -- like, you can't do it [unintelligible]. Yeah.

BH: Right.

FT: I don't even know, but I never heard of it here. But I know that was one of the families.

BH: What about Lena Horne?

EH: Lena Horne had [unintelligible].

KB: I don't know where she was from.

BH: [She had some roots there?].

FT: She was from Stewart County, too.

BH: Okay.

IG: Really?

EH: She had relatives in --

FT: Stewart County, yeah, and they had relatives there.

KB: [unintelligible].

FT: But there's 16, you know, like, that you're going to see [2:46:00] when it comes up.

IG: When I do the Winfred?

FT: Yeah.

IG: Sixteen famous people?

FT: But, now, they've got it all broken down now, because, see, he used to do just leather bags and wallets, but now he's doing leather furniture, and they've got -- you know, like, you have to go in, and it's done by categories. You know,

like, they've changed the website so much now, you have to go in there and ask them what you want. And then you have to ask for the autobiography, and then you have to ask for, you know, like, his life story, and it'll come up and tell about him, you know, like, when he was in prison and how he got out and how Carter fought, you know, like, under that law that there were people that were locked up unjustly, you know, like, back in the day. And he was one of the ones that they let out in -- but he spent from 1960 until 2011, so that's a lifetime. (agreement)

BH: Sure is.

FT: He just got out.

LR: [Mr. Mustang?], so that was for stealing the car?

FT: Hmm?

LR: Was that for stealing the car?

FT: For stealing the car and [2:47:00] hitting a white man.

LR: [unintelligible].

KB: But Winfred -- he lived right in back of me, and he lived across from the pig farm. You remember where the pig guy -  
- the house --

FT: The slaughterhouse.

EH: The slaughterhouse.

KB: The slaughterhouse --

BH: Way up there.

KB: -- [unintelligible].

FT: That's [what she's talking right down in the woods?].

KB: Yeah, he was --

FT: That's where he was from.

KB: -- [unintelligible], and our property went up to where he lived and went right down the alley area. Well, it wasn't an alley, just a little path, and you go to Winfred. That's how I know Winfred. But [unintelligible] --

EH: [unintelligible].

KB: Hmm?

EH: I think he was younger than my brother.

KB: I was going to say, he [unintelligible].

FT: He's --

KB: I was a little kid [unintelligible].

FT: He would have graduated with them. He's 73. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

FT: He was born, you know, like, in 1945.

KB: Yeah. [unintelligible].

IG: Where was he born at?

FT: He was born in Cuthbert.

IG: Oh, okay.

FT: He was born June -- I think he was born in June or December, you know, like, [unintelligible], 1945.

IG: That name just sounds familiar. It's got to be in my roots

somewhere.

FT: Well, there's [2:48:00] --

KB: [unintelligible] --

FT: -- [unintelligible]. Liz, what was the other --

KB: [unintelligible] [Miss May?].

FT: There was another set of Remberts.

KB: [unintelligible] --

FT: Now, his is [Rembert?].

EH: [unintelligible] --

FT: And the Remberts --

EH: Rembert [unintelligible].

FT: Right. Now, they lived down the street, across from the Bakers and stuff like that. That's not that family. You know, like, they're no relation.

EH: No, no, no.

FT: He was from [McDonough Woods?].

EH: Right, right.

IG: I don't know. I just remember doing a Rembert somewhere in my genealogy. Somebody married a Rembert.

EH: The first [pilot?] came out [unintelligible] pilot came out of [unintelligible]. I can't [unintelligible] --

KB: Oh, yeah, she was a Hightower. She came from -- matter of fact, she's related to me.

IG: Yeah, [unintelligible] Tyrone was talking about. She's the

first --

EH: Black pilot. [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: -- [unintelligible] black female pilot in the Air Force.  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

IG: She's retired now.

EH: Oh, yes, [overlapping dialogue; unintelligible].

IG: And I met her.

EH: Did you?

IG: Yeah, I'm trying to think. Where did I meet her at?

CN: [unintelligible].

IG: Maybe Oktoberfest?

EH: [2:49:00] [unintelligible]. She [flew up?]  
[unintelligible] --

CN: Yeah. You need to take off, Kat?

KB: [unintelligible]?

CN: You need to take off?

KB: Yeah.

CN: Yeah, we can wrap it up.

KB: My granddaughter is [buzzing?] me up.

CN: (laughs) Yeah.

KB: [unintelligible].

CN: Yeah.

IG: What is her name, though? I can't remember her name.

EH: [unintelligible] --

IG: And I didn't [unintelligible] -- [overlapping dialogue;  
unintelligible]

CN: So, I'm going to go ahead and stop the recorders now.

FT: Oh, okay.

CN: So, I was going to officially thank you all (laughs) --  
[overlapping dialogue; unintelligible]

CN: -- very much.

IG: You're welcome.

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