

Transcribed by: Mrs. Treneattia Rozena Bowman

July 4, 2015

Interviewed by: Mrs. Winnie Merritt, and Dr. Evelyn Thompson

Mrs. Marie Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

And it was difficult, or even in World War II it was difficult to get lumber Lumber

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well this was when it was difficult-you couldn't ^{get} but any lumber

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Jonson speaks)

And he ordered it and well he had this lumber, it was after that that he couldn't buy any, and I had bought some lumber somewhere, I can't remember, you know after you get a certain age you can't-

(Winnie agrees)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I-I know what it was; now it's coming to me, when he built the house, you couldn't get any windows, and doors

(Winnie speaks)

Right, mm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That's what it was

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He built the house, and I put up curtains

(Winnie speaks)

Now who was that that built the house?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mr. Joyce Scales

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I put up curtains in every room, you know just-

(Winnie speaks)

I know

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And later on, Mr. Hines told me he could get me some windows, and I mean doors, but he would have to order them, because these windows I got now, I think he put them in, but the storm doors, I had them-had it last. Sears and Roebuck put them in

(Winnie speaks)

Did you have your family already started when you got this house?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah, we lived up there in Mr. Uncle Joyce's log house

(Winnie speaks)

On the same ah-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You see this road use to go all the way to the top of the hill

(Winnie speaks)

Oh, it did; uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And then when they come through and-what do you call that?

(Evelyn speaks)

(Non-transcribed statement beginning with R)

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, see they tore his house down, they tore the café down, and everything; but they left this house

(Winnie speaks)

What was the café?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What?

(Winnie speaks)

What was the café called?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What was the café called?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Joyce and Johnson's café

(Winnie speaks)

Joyce-and that was your café?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mmm-hmm, our own cafe

(Winnie speaks)

You want to tell us just a little bit about that before we go back and talk about-

(Mrs. Johnson interrupts)

Well, the children was going to school

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And Freddy was very mischievous, and Mrs. Thelma; she was beginning to get fevers and he asked me; "Can you do something for me?", I said "What?"; he said, "I know you know about cooking, let's go in and build a café". So he turned the barn into a café. You know he had the money, so now- and I don't know who fixed it for him, but anyway he turned it into a café, and we run it twenty-three years

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm, When did you open the doors to that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

It was in nineteen and when did we open those doors?

(Winnie speaks)

Can you tell me even how old your children were?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well Thomas, he was about five years old, and Fred; he was about 8

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, when was Fred born?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He was born nineteen and thirty-four

(Winnie speaks)

Ok, so about 8 years later

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

In nineteen forty-two, so right in the middle of World War II

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yes, I know the war was going on, because my brother Albert was in the service

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, and after he got out I was telling him you know what a hard time I had?

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He said after mamma died, cause they joined him; just walked in; he didn't say, Aunt Marie can I come stay with you, I said I believe they framed up on me.

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

The two boys and Uncle Burrell, cause uncle Burrell was even down there. And he'd come down every morning and get his breakfast, I would jump up about five o'clock cause you see, I had to go to the café. And on Sunday it was the same thing. And I had to get the children ready for Sunday school, and everything. So it was kindly hard, but yet and still it was a good long time he survived, so I'm proud of it now

(Winnie speaks)

So you raised not only your own children, but a nephew?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, see back then, after mama died in-what year did mama die? It was either the fifties or sixties one, but anyway; Johnny was staying with her, his mother was in West Virginia.

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And, we just moved in; cause Uncle-I never will forget that Sunday. Wheew! We were so busy at the café. I said, "Marie?", Dorothy Shuff was sitting on this side of the window, cause it was a big window on each side. She said, "Marie, Johnny staying with you?". "No". "I believe he is, he

coming down the road with as many clothes as he could carry on his little back. He was just a carrying-. My uncle say "Marie, let me take over the cooking so you can see what's going on at home. Fred was at the front door, "Mama, don't say nothing, mama don't say nothing". I said, "Well, what's going on?". I went to my room through the kitchen, Uncle Burrell was sitting right there, where he could see through this door, these two doors

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I said, "Well I said what's going on?" (non-transcribed statement). Well when I got to this door, the door coming you know, across the hall. The youngest one, the smallest one; was just a pushing clothes back, his little hands was just a going like that

<Winnie laughs>

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I was still asking, "What happening, what's happened?" Didn't anybody say anything

(Winnie speaks)

Wow

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But finally, Johnny sat in the, whatever-you know like this one-

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He said, "Aunt Marie, I'm gone stay down here." That's what he said

(Winnie speaks)

And how old was he at that time?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well he was about 9 years old at that time

(Winnie speaks)

So a year older than Fred, about-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see, no; Fred was 2 years older than him

(Winnie speaks)

So you think the kids sort of hatched this up?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, see when mama-Fred stayed up to mama's as much as he lived here with mama. So I think they all just said, oh just come on down here you can stay

(Winnie speaks)

So what were your children's names?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What were their names?

(Winnie speaks)

Fred and-?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Fred France Johnson, and Thomas Roberts; see I was married twice

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And Johnny

(Winnie speaks)

And Johnny

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Johnny Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

And your mama's name, what was her name?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Latisha Smith-Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

And your daddy?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Thomas Jefferson Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

Were they both born in Surry County, or where did they-Did they move in from somewhere?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

If I made no mistake. I used to hear papa say he used to be in Patrick County at one time

(Winnie speaks)

Up in Virginia?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, and I know I have went to Dobson- you know for their records, and see they have moved a lot of things. Dobson now, and they told me I would have to write to Raleigh to get all of the information that

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That I want

(Winnie speaks)

Oh yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I said well, and the lady said, it might cost you about fifty dollars

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I said well it would be worth fifty dollars to know your background

(Winnie agrees, and speaks)

Right, yeah, have you ever gone up to Patrick to learn anything up there?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

No

(Winnie speaks)

There's a meeting coming up actually up there for people who are doing that

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see really, I didn't know anybody up there to go, you know cause their young people they wouldn't know anyone

(Winnie speaks)

So when you were growing up, where did you live

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I lived on Wards Gap, well that was the name of it at that time, but now its Main Street

(Winnie speaks)

Across from that little (non-transcribed statement)

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You know where that little grey apartment house is over there?

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That house right across there, that's where I was growing up

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh, ok. (non-transcribed statement) across from the grey apartments?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, and see there was an appointment, Leoni's appointment was on the other side. Mrs. Gwyn's house was on this side

(Winnie speaks)

Yes, ok. And do you have brothers and sisters?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well it was counting mama, and papa it was thirteen of us in our house, it was just a large family

(Winnie speaks)

Now we interview Albert, so we know a little bit about it, but you were there for some of the interview. Was there anything that you would like to share in there about your experience, because you were a bit older than Albert

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well now papa, he was a farmer, just like I say. And then outside of farming, he hauled wood for Mr. Eugene Smith

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And he got his wood free, and he'd sell the wood, and give Mr. Eugene Smith his part, and then in farming; it was Mr. Eugene Smith, in farming it was Mr. J. D Smith

(Winnie agrees)

Ah-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That big ole-where proctor is on it now

(Winnie speaks)

Right, down in that bottom there, near the railroad

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, that's the bottom. And we would walk to the- if we didn't go over the river, to a spring over there, we would walk to the box shed

(Winnie speaks)

Where is that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

The box shed, have you ever been down there?

(Winnie speaks)

I don't remember it, no

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well the box shed, instead of going that way, you go this way

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Let's see what's down there? I think that's down there close to where that trash thing is now, but I guess the old railroad track is still there

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-yeah, I think it is

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, I know when the fair was here, and they had the fair. Papa would always let us come see they had horse races at that time, at the fair. And he'd always bring us up here at the walnut tree, and look at the horse race. And it was fun, papa was fun. And sometimes he would get down in the floor here, and play marbles with us

(Winnie asks)

Would he?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah! And never will forget the last time he was able to do anything. We was sitting by the fireplace, that's at the house. Mama was on this side, Lib was right here, I was right here Papa

was right here, he had a big ole bible like that right here, mama was right there playing Jacob's ladder on a French horn

(Winnie speaks)

On a French horn?!

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah! She-

(Winnie gestures)

Oh-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And you know I wanted to learn to play one, and she wouldn't teach me. Papa said-you know just like- just go like that, but they never would tell me why; but Uncle Burrell said one of his sister died playing a French horn

(Winnie gestures)

Ooooh!

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

So I said well-oh, I always wanted to- oh I think that's-but the funniest thing was he would say "Ma, I want to read you the bible" you know just like that-

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mama got up, and I was watching Papa, and I was watching Mama. Mama did this to Lib, you know that mean to come on

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Lib got up, and here we go, they went outside. They left his door open, the kitchen door open you know going to the porch

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And the well door, it was three doors. Mama got out there and boy she got out on that French horn, he might as well let her sing inside. And you know back then, they had firecrackers but they wouldn't let the children -you know

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

So Papa says-now I-here I am a child

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He done his bible like that, it was a chair sitting right there –that, well I use it for a safe, he used it for his crackers <voice gets non-transcribable at 13:24 until 13: 30 and continues louder at 13:31>he said come on, he was real tall-

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And he could step you know long

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I was real small, and I was trying to trot to keep up with this, and he said “No, you stay right there”. And he threwed it across the house, and said, “Run, run, run, run” We run, and we sit down. He say “Boy, if they turn they noise up, I aint coming back!

(All parties laugh in unison)

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

And then I'd go lay in bed, and not think about nothing

(Evelyn speaks in unison at the end of Mrs. Johnson's statement)

Think about it *<laughter follows>*

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

Well, Papa grabbed his Bible, and I'm watching Papa, and I wouldn't look up, because I was scared I would give myself away. And so-but after Papa died, It probably had been about 3 years, and I was laughing and telling, mama said "I oughta wear you out right now", I said "But mama, that's been thirty years ago

<Evelyn laughs along with Mrs. Johnson>

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

See she thought I ought told it then

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But I wasn't going to tell on Papa

(Winnie speaks)

How old were you at that time?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I was about 8 years old

(Winnie speaks)

So your daddy was- you were fairly young when he died

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah, well let's see, I would have turned twenty-one when daddy was dead

(Winnie speaks)

Oh really?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, because see after he died, wasn't anything coming in, and mama was just taking these little bitty washing, and everything was just twenty-five, fifty cents. And everybody that was old enough, had to go to work

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I go to work, and I get to keep fifty cents every once in a while.

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I would bring home

(Winnie speaks)

How would you spend your fifty-cents?

(Mrs. Johnson gestures)

Huh?

(Winnie speaks)

If it was your very own fifty cents what would you do with it?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh, I would save it, and the next week, I never will forget; I would buy me a dress cause see you could get a dress then for ninety-eight cents

(Winnie speaks)

Could you? Oh, ok

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And, you'd buy them the underwear and everything, but you know what? Children today- now I appreciate, but I look at Matilda's little boy, and they get everything they want and their not thankful

Repeat

<tape breaks at 16:12-19:11>

(Winnie speaks)

And it was difficult, or even in World War II it was difficult to get ^{Lumber}lumber

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well this was when it was difficult-you couldn't ^{buy}but any lumber

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Jonson speaks)

And he ordered it and well he had this lumber, it was after that that he couldn't buy any, and I had bought some lumber somewhere, I can't remember, you know after you get a certain age you can't-

(Winnie agrees)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I-I know what it was; now it's coming to me, when he built the house, you couldn't get any windows, and doors

(Winnie speaks)

Right, mm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That's what it was

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He built the house, and I put up curtains

(Winnie speaks)

Now who was that that built the house?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mr. Joyce Scales

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I put up curtains in every room, you know just-

(Winnie speaks)

I know

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And later on, Mr. Hines told me he could get me some windows, and I mean doors, but he would have to order them, because these windows I got now, I think he put them in, but the storm doors, I had them-had it last. Sears and Roebuck put them in

(Winnie speaks)

Did you have your family already started when you got this house?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah, we lived up there in Mr. Uncle Joyce's log house

(Winnie speaks)

On the same ah-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You see this road use to go all the way to the top of the hill

(Winnie speaks)

Oh, it did; uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And then when they come through and-what do you call that?

(Evelyn speaks)

(Non-transcribed statement beginning with R)

Repeat

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, see they tore his house down, they tore the café down, and everything; but they left this house

(Winnie speaks)

What was the café?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What?

(Winnie speaks)

What was the café called?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What was the café called?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Joyce and Johnson's café

(Winnie speaks)

Joyce-and that was your café?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mmm-hmm, our own cafe

(Winnie speaks)

You want to tell us just a little bit about that before we go back and talk about-

(Mrs. Johnson interrupts)

Well, the children was going to school

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And Freddy was very mischievous, and Mrs. Thelma;she was beginning to get fevers and he asked me; "Can you do something for me?", I said "What?"; he said, "I know you know about

Repeat

cooking, let's go in and build a café". So he turned the barn into a café. You know he had the money, so now- and I don't know who fixed it for him, but anyway he turned it into a café, and we run it twenty-three years

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm, When did you open the doors to that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

It was in nineteen and when did we open those doors?

(Winnie speaks)

Can you tell me even how old your children were?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well Thomas, he was about five years old, and Fred; he was about 8

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, when was Fred born?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He was born nineteen and thirty-four

(Winnie speaks)

Ok, so about 8 years later

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

In nineteen forty-two, so right in the middle of World War II

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yes, I know the war was going on, because my brother Albert was in the service

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, and after he got out I was telling him you know what a hard time I had?

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He said after mamma died, cause they joined him; just walked in; he didn't say, Aunt Marie can I come stay with you, I said I believe they framed up on me.

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

The two boys and Uncle Burrell, cause uncle Burrell was even down there. And he'd come down every morning and get his breakfast, I would jump up about five o'clock cause you see, I had to go to the café. And on Sunday it was the same thing. And I had to get the children ready for Sunday school, and everything. So it was kindly hard, but yet and still it was a good long time he survived, so I'm proud of it now

(Winnie speaks)

So you raised not only your own children, but a nephew?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, see back then, after mama died in-what year did mama die? It was either the fifties or sixties one, but anyway; Johnny was staying with her, his mother was in West Virginia.

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And, we just moved in; cause Uncle-I never will forget that Sunday. Wheew! We were so busy at the café. I said, "Marie?", Dorothy Shuff was sitting on this side of the window, cause it was a big window on each side. She said, "Marie, Johnny staying with you?". "No". "I believe he is, he coming down the road with as many clothes as he could carry on his little back. He was just a carrying-. My uncle say "Marie, let me take over the cooking so you can see what's going on at home. Fred was at the front door, "Mama, don't say nothing, mama don't say nothing". I said, "Well, what's going on?". I went to my room through the kitchen, Uncle Burrell was sitting right there, where he could see through this door, these two doors

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I said, "Well I said what's going on?" (non-transcribed statement). Well when I got to this door, the door coming you know, across the hall. The youngest one, the smallest one; was just a pushing clothes back, his little hands was just a going like that

<Winnie laughs>

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I was still asking, "What happening, what's happened?" Didn't anybody say anything

(Winnie speaks)

Wow

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But finally, Johnny sat in the, whatever-you know like this one-

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He said, "Aunt Marie, I'm gone stay down here." That's what he said

(Winnie speaks)

And how old was he at that time?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well he was about 9 years old at that time

(Winnie speaks)

So a year older than Fred, about-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see, no, Fred was 2 years older than him

(Winnie speaks)

So you think the kids sort of hatched this up?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, see when mama-Fred stayed up to mama's as much as he lived here with mama. So I think they all just said, oh just come on down here you can stay

(Winnie speaks)

So what were your children's names?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What were their names?

(Winnie speaks)

Fred and-?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Fred France Johnson, and Thomas Roberts; see I was married twice

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And Johnny

(Winnie speaks)

And Johnny

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Johnny Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

And your mama's name, what was her name?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Latisha Smith-Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

And your daddy?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Thomas Jefferson Johnson

(Winnie speaks)

Were they both born in Surry County, or where did they-Did they move in from somewhere?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

If I made no mistake. I used to hear papa say he used to be in Patrick County at one time

(Winnie speaks)

Up in Virginia?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, and I know I have went to Dobson- you know for their records, and see they have moved a lot of things. Dobson now, and they told me I would have to write to Raleigh to get all of the **information that**

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That I want

(Winnie speaks)

Oh yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I said well, and the lady said, it might cost you about fifty dollars

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I said well it would be worth fifty dollars to know your background

(Winnie agrees, and speaks)

Right, yeah, have you ever gone up to Patrick to learn anything up there?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

No

(Winnie speaks)

There's a meeting coming up actually up there for people who are doing that

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see really, I didn't know anybody up there to go, you know cause their young people they wouldn't know anyone

(Winnie speaks)

So when you were growing up, where did you live

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I lived on Wards Gap, well that was the name of it at that time, but now its Main Street

(Winnie speaks)

Across from that little (non-transcribed statement)

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You know where that little grey apartment house is over there?

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That house right across there, that's where I was growing up

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh, ok. (non-transcribed statement) across from the grey apartments?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, and see there was an appointment; Leoni's appointment was on the other side. Mrs. Gwyn's house was on this side

(Winnie speaks)

Yes, ok. And do you have brothers and sisters?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well it was counting mama, and papa it was thirteen of us in our house, it was just a large family

(Winnie speaks)

Now we interview Albert, so we know a little bit about it, but you were there for some of the interview. Was there anything that you would like to share in there about your experience, because you were a bit older than Albert

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well now papa, he was a farmer, just like I say. And then outside of farming, he hauled wood for Mr. Eugene Smith

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And he got his wood free, and he'd sell the wood, and give Mr. Eugene Smith his part, and then in farming; it was Mr. Eugene Smith, in farming it was Mr. J. D Smith

(Winnie agrees)

Ah-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That big ole-where proctor is on it now

(Winnie speaks)

Right, down in that bottom there, near the railroad

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, that's the bottom. And we would walk to the- if we didn't go over the river, to a spring over there, we would walk to the box shed

(Winnie speaks)

Where is that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

The box shed, have you ever been down there?

(Winnie speaks)

I don't remember it, no

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well the box shed, instead of going that way, you go this way

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Let's see what's down there? I think that's down there close to where that trash thing is now, but I guess the old railroad track is still there

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-yeah, I think it is

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, I know when the fair was here, and they had the fair. Papa would always let us come see they had horse races at that time, at the fair. And he'd always bring us up here at the walnut tree, and look at the horse race. And it was fun, papa was fun. And sometimes he would get down in the floor here, and play marbles with us

(Winnie asks)

Would he?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah! And never will forget the last time he was able to do anything. We was sitting by the fireplace, that's at the house. Mama was on this side, Lib was right here, I was right here Papa was right here, he had a big ole bible like that right here, mama was right there playing Jacob's ladder on a French horn

(Winnie speaks)

On a French horn?!

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah! She-

(Winnie gestures)

Oh-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And you know I wanted to learn to play one, and she wouldn't teach me. Papa said-you know just like- just go like that, but they never would tell me why; but Uncle Burrell said one of his sister died playing a French horn

(Winnie gestures)

Ooooh!

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

So I said well-oh, I always wanted to- oh I think that's-but the funniest thing was he would say "Ma, I want to read you the bible" you know just like that-

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mama got up, and I was watching Papa, and I was watching Mama. Mama did this to Lib, you know that mean to come on

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Lib got up, and here we go, they went outside. They left his door open, the kitchen door open you know going to the porch

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And the well door, it was three doors. Mama got out there and boy she got out on that French horn, he might as well let her sing inside. And you know back then, they had firecrackers but they wouldn't let the children -you know

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

So Papa says-now I-here I am a child

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He done his bible like that, it was a chair sitting right there –that, well I use it for a safe, he used it for his crackers <voice gets non-transcribable at 13:24 until 13:30 and continues louder at 13:31>he said come on, he was real tall-

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And he could step you know long

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I was real small, and I was trying to trot to keep up with this, and he said “No, you stay right there”. And he throwed it across the house, and said, “Run, run, run, run” We run, and we sit down. He say “Boy, if they turn they noise up, I aint coming back!

(All parties laugh in unison)

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

And then I’d go lay in bed, and not think about nothing

(Evelyn speaks in unison at the end of Mrs. Johnson’s statement)

Think about it <laughter follows>

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

Well, Papa grabbed his Bible, and I’m watching Papa, and I wouldn’t look up, because I was scared I would give myself away. And so-but after Papa died, It probably had been about 3 years,

and I was laughing and telling, mama said "I oughta wear you out right now", I said "But mama, that's been thirty years ago"

<Evelyn laughs along with Mrs. Johnson>

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

See she thought I ought told it then

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But I wasn't going to tell on Papa

(Winnie speaks)

How old were you at that time?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I was about 8 years old

(Winnie speaks)

So your daddy was- you were fairly young when he died

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah, well let's see, I would have turned twenty-one when daddy was dead

(Winnie speaks)

Oh really?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, because see after he died, wasn't anything coming in, and mama was just taking these little bitty washing, and everything was just twenty-five, fifty cents. And everybody that was old enough, had to go to work

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Repeat

And I go to work, and I get to keep fifty cents every once in a while.

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I would bring home

(Winnie speaks)

How would you spend your fifty-cents?

(Mrs. Johnson gestures)

Huh?

(Winnie speaks)

If it was your very own fifty cents what would you do with it?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh, I would save it, and the next week, I never will forget; I would buy me a dress cause see you could get a dress then for ninety-eight cents

(Winnie speaks)

Could you? Oh, ok

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And, you'd buy them the underwear and everything, but you know what? Children today- now I appreciate, but I look at Matilda's little boy, and they get everything they want and their not thankful

<tape breaks at 32:14-35:52>

(Winnie speaks)

Well now, you want to tell me that again? Now you said your father's father was-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

A Indian

(Winnie speaks)

Repeat
↑

Start

Indian, uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Might have been

(Winnie asks)

Do you know Cherokee, or-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

At that time they called them Black tribe, I don't know what that is

(Winnie speaks)

So he was half Indian

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

Ok, and did your father have any ways that you felt might have been Indian ways?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well everybody said he had peculiar ways but they still loved him, they said he was right

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You know

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

He just was a Christian man, and he believed in right

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I know when you would gather the corn, he would come up to buy corn, and he would just pile it up. Mama said, Papa your getting to much. Papa said “The Bible says to “ press it down and heap it up”

(Winnie speaks)

He lived by the Bible

(Mrs. John son speaks)

Yeah. He lived by the Bible, and he would just press it down, and heap it up. You know and get it

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And back then him and all the people he would gather up his corn, and come from the State Line, different places. He shucked corn, and put it in the barn, and when they came he would gather it up people from dow n here would go up there

(Winnie asks)

So did you feed the folks when you came?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah! Mama, and Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Grayson, a gang of them went and Mrs. Madeline a gang would go up there, and just a cooking

(Winnie asks)

Did you have any music, or dancing or anything like that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Any what?

(Winnie speaks)

Music or dancing at the end of the day?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

We didn't know nothing about that

(Winnie speaks)

Naw. Ok, so they just went home probably pretty tiredly

<laughter follows>

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well they just went tired, but they went home full. And if anybody wanted a piece of pie, or cake, oh they would have cake and everything cooked up, you could carry a plate with you. And at New Years time, different ones, you know different women had to stay home back then, we would

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. John son speaks)

And the men's could go, and when they come home, they would have all this food; and all of us would sit down and divide it, and Mr. Tom Davis, had a store up here; its tore down now, but over the weekend daddy would go up there, and get a nickel or dime worth of candy, he "Come here chap" that's what he called us, and he would gather us around and break it down, boy we would have the best time, we thought it was a party

(Winnie speaks)

So Mr. Tom Davis' store, whereabouts was that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You know where this vacant lot-

<tape breaks at 38:55-38:58>

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

On that road there

(Winnie speaks)

Sitting right there?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And Uncle Burrell's house is below there

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And Barbara's house

(Winnie speaks)

Oh, ok

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And that's where Mr. Tom's store was at, and the house was this size, and then Hale built a house up there, it's a brick house

(Winnie speaks)

Now what about your mama? Can you tell us about where she was born?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well; see, mama; well I don't know where she was born, but grand mama on mama's side was a slave over here at the old Fulton house

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well it used to be a log cabin, like the house-the big house was up here, you go up this road, the log cabin is behind the house

(Winnie speaks)

Oh I see

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But see that's where grand mama, and Uncle Burrell house stayed. And mama stayed in the Fulton house until she was thirteen, and then she had to go out there and work with Uncle Burrell and mama

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I asked Uncle Burrell, I said well Uncle Burrell, "Why was she there?" I said "I thought that was cruel." I thought- you know And he said "Well she was large enough then for the boys to pay her some attention", you know just-

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But as far as I know everything went along fine.

(Winnie speaks)

Did your mama ever talk about growing up there?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

No, now see mama never said anything. What I learned was from Uncle Burrell

(Winnie speaks)

Uncle Burrell was her brother was it?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yes, uh-huh

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh, now did he tell you about the days of growing up there? When your grandmother was alive, did he know?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see, he told me she was a slave

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh, and did he know anything about her life as a slave?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well he knows, No. Now the only thing I know about a slave, was my first husband, Bernie France, Ascenda France, Mr. Joe France's son, she came by, she came by here one day, well anyway, I was living in this area, and she was talking about slavery times

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And she said “You children today, don’t have to go through what we went through

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And she told some things about, you know how they was treated

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You know how they was treated

(Winnie speaks)

Do you want to share any about it?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

No I don’t, I don’t want to share it with nobody

(Winnie speaks)

Ok, so it was pretty hard on you?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well what I meant, it was pretty cruel. I’ll put it like that

(Winnie speaks)

Oh, ok. Now coming back to your lifetime when- you were born in what year?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I was born in nineteen-I was born June 4th nineteen and seventeen, because I will be eighty-four on my birthday

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh, so you've seen a lot about war in your lifetime?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah, see Albert wasn't but about seventeen when he volunteered for the war

(Winnie speaks)

Who else in your family might have fought in any of the first World Wars, or Korea, or Vietnam?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Now, Loyd Johnson, Uncle Burrell, Uncle Ned's son he fought in what was it? World War?

(Winnie speaks)

The one where you were born just in the finishing?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mmm-hmm, yeah, I was born at the finishing of it

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And my nephew he fought Dolly Hines's son in Russ-he fought in the Korean War

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh, ok. Do you- does the family have records of their service, do you know? One of the reasons I am asking is that were also trying to learn the military history of folks from Surry County

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You would have to Jonathon, and JoAnn about that, you know them don't you?

(Winnie speaks)

Now you were a grown woman during World War II, did it affect your life? Or how did it affect your life?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Let's see, now what year was that?

(Winnie speaks)

Well that would have been in the nineteen forties, early nineteen forties, and you had a-it sounds like you had a-you were

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well I had a-Thomas was born in the forties. Well wages and everything was cheap, that's all I can say

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But, and then there wasn't any buses or anything, you had to walk to work and walk back. But then groceries and everything was cheaper to

(Winnie speaks)

Do you remember the ration coupons, and things like that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I got a ration coupon around here somewhere

(Winnie speaks)

Do you?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks and laughs)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

So did that affect your restaurant, your café?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

No

(Winnie speaks)

No, you could get the food you needed to start your café?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I could still get the food that I needed, so-

(Winnie speaks)

What about your neighbor's, did they have sons or their husbands off at war? How did people feel at that time?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well now the neighbors around here, of-now Mr. Charlie Thompson, now hes the one sold me this lot, anything they could do to help you they come. I can't say anything about them, even today

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

My neighbors are good

(Winnie speaks)

What do you-can you remember a time in your life when it was something that happened in Surry County that either made you glad or sad, whatever discouraged, or really excited, and if you feel like telling us about that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well you take when a elder person died, it looked like everybody you know was sad about that

(Winnie agrees)

Mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And then we had revivals back then, and a person you know a person joined the church, we would-everybody would rejoice, yes they would

(Winnie speaks)

What would they do? Tell me about that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well they was just sang, and clap they hands, and shout. It was just a rejoiceful-you would have to see it to understand

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

But see now when you go to church, I don't know what it is, its a lot of clapping hands, but people don't shout like they used to

(Winnie speaks)

Did you have baptisms- or where did you go to get baptized

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, I remember, you know where the school house is don't you?

(Winnie speaks)

Yes, uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well it was a branch at that time-

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Took this tall plank, and you know put it across here, and banked up the water,

(Winnie speaks)

Oh I see

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And they baptized-

(Winnie speaks)

Down in the water

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You know made it deep enough to where you could baptize, but see it's not in the river now like it used to be when I was growing up. I don't know what happened to the water

(Winnie speaks)

I'm wandering about health, and how when your-if you know anything about how your folks took care of-when you were sick, how you did, did you have home remedies you used? We'd like to know some of the ways that people coped in other times with health for instance

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well now, as far as health; I remember Papa most when we was sick, but I don't know. I would go around, and Papa would tell me, see he had plenty of onions and everything

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And you get these onions and cook them, put as much black pepper in them, and take us in; and that brought the fever, and you would gradually get better

(Winnie speaks)

So they ate that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mmm-hmm, yeah, and you know, that's good today cause a lot of times when I take a cold I cut me some onion, yeah that's good

(Winnie asks)

Did you ever use pupates like put a plaster on your chest or-? Or on your feet, or onions or other things?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah! They did that, at the bottom of your feet, when you go to bed

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh, and was that-what was that for? Was that to draw a fever or-?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That was for to draw a fever

(Winnie speaks)

What did they use for that on your feet?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I don't know. I got-I remember Papa him, they would light the fire place, they would get soot, and get the onions, and I don't remember what else they put on ~~their~~. But they would bind it, you know if you had a real bad chest cold

there

(Winnie speaks)

Cold, uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

They would put it yeah- to help with your fever

(Winnie speaks)

What if you got cut? Were there any home remedies for when you got cut? Do you remember? Or had a sore burn?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well they would just bind you up, you know?

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

When they would just put-mama had old sheets and all, and they would put some type of medicine here, and tie it real tight; and it wasn't no such thing as going to the doctor

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

Getting a stitch because they didn't have the money for that

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh, I am kind of going all over the place with this but I'd like to hear also going back to your child, you said your father like to play jokes. What were some of the games that you might have played in your childhood or toys, or activities that you had? Can you-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see we played hop scotch, and rotten cabbage

(Winnie speaks)

Tell us about rotten cabbage, what is that?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well you get a bunch of kids all the way-you know a line right?

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And the grown person would- you'd would have your hands behind your back like that. And they'd say brace up, don't let us push you down,said cause if we push you down your rotten cabbage

<laughter erupts>

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

And we'd be, just sitting on the ground just bracing; there was a, the song went : " I lost my handkerchief yesterday, and I found it again today; if I don't fill a bottle of milk, I dashed it all away", and when you dashed it, you dashed it-see it was a ring, of children

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You dashed it behind one, and if they start to grab it and run, you tried to catch it, but you tried to get-

(Winnie speaks)

Back to your place?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, so uh-I don't know. Them was some good ole days

(Winnie speaks)

Tell me a little about your school days, did you go to school up here? Or where did you-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well see I didn't go to this school, I went to Ararat

(Winnie speaks)

Where was that school? Was it right here?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah, it was, over there. Is (non-transcribed verb) that new school built onto the old one?

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes, it's built onto the New Jones, but not Ararat

<parties agree in unison>

(Winnie speaks)

And what was it like? Did you like school?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yes! Mrs. Cunningham she stayed with mama, and Mrs. Oakley, they stayed with mama

(Winnie speaks)

Them were teachers?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

They came from somewhere else?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mrs. Oakley taught me, and finally Mr. (non-transcribed name) Johnson came over after I left from over there, because like I said, I had to quit early and go to work

(Winnie gestures)

Uh-huh

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

So that's about all I remember, you know about that. Now Mrs. Oakley, you know just about the time taxi bring them up here, if you got to the road here on time; she would let you wear her beads off and let you wear them all day

(Winnie speaks)

Oh would she? A little treat

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

That was a little treat

(Winnie speaks)

Did your daddy-Oh we talked about property, I remember you telling, your daddy farmed Mr. Eugene Smith's land. Did he ever own land himself?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, see he owned, this-the homeplace up here

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And it was, well it was land back there, it was 2 acres behind that, but see uh- it took more than that with a family

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah, mmm-hmm, Did you know if your granddaddy ever owned property?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

No, I never had anyone tell me

(Winnie speaks)

Were interested in how many folks did have property, and where it was. It's an interesting part of the history as well

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

You mean around here?

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah, mmm-hmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well Mr. Dave Satterfield; he owned his property, as far as I know. And Mrs. Lula, what's her name? (Non-transcribed statement) Smith sister; Mrs. Lula Fulton. She married Mr. Fulton. They owned their land

(Winnie gestures)

Mmm-hmmm

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

The Bowman's owned their land, Mr. Bowman owned his ^{Land} life, Mrs. Gracie owned hers. Well when it first started up here, all the colored people you know owned-

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah, had their own property

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

Getting back to the history of the wider history, when you think about the things that happened in your life, is there anything that stands out in your mind, that you had strong feelings about one way or another? Anything that maybe affected you, that happened in the country?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Like what?

(Winnie speaks)

Well anything that you can think of. We talked about World War I, and you said that it had some impact to you

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well now that you mentioned it, usually you gone feel sorry for the people in wars

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

Because you don't know what they're going through

(Winnie speaks)

Was there anything in the days of the civil rights era that affected you?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well you know what? I had a lot of people talk about that, but as far as I can remember, Papa got what he wanted, but it's just like he always taught us, you be nice to them for them to be nice to you. And I never had a problem-and I'm just talking about myself

(Winnie speaks)

Right

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

I remember Casco was on this side, and it was chicken place over over here, and the lady asked me to work for her one day. She lived up at the Black (non-transcribed noun). I went up there to clean her house, and I didn't have a car at that time; and then she brought me back. She said you got children haven't you? I said yeah, and she gave me eggs and bacon to bring home to my children.

(Winnie speaks)

So you've had some good experiences?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well people was, well I was nice to them, and they was nice to me. I never had to beg is what I'm saying. And I never had to come out and say "Will you please give me some?"

(Winnie agrees)

Uh-huh. Well you were working hard

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Oh yeah! I worked hard all my life

(Winnie speaks)

Did you- were their other business people like yourself that you went to. I know you mentioned that Mr. Davis' store

(Mrs. Johnson gestures)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

That your folks use to go to

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, see you could give your child a penny, and come back with a long stick of candy

(Winnie speaks)

Were there other business in this area that you can remember?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well Mr. Beamer down here, well, see that was at the bottom of the hill

(Winnie speaks)

And what did Mr. Beamer do?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well he sold everything, he sold groceries and everything

(Winnie speaks)

What was his first name?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mrs. Freddy Beamer

(Evelyn speaks)

Was he a white man or a black man?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Huh?

(Evelyn speaks)

Was he a white man or a black man, Beamer?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

White man

(Evelyn speaks)

White man, Mr. Beamer's store

(Winnie speaks)

So were there other black business people that you can think of that your folks may have traded with, or that sometimes though you would have yourself, were interested in businesses?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well, no. Mr. Tom-Mr. Tom Brady's store, the only one as a black store

(Evelyn speaks)

Do you remember a business that was right here on the Main Street now in the area where down below where (non-transcribed statement). Across from where the Whitlocks live

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Where what?

(Evelyn speaks)

Where the Whitlocks live, on the opposite side of the road, was that-another business ever in that area?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

The Whitlock's,

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, you remember?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

What Whitlocks?

(Evelyn speaks)

You remember Whitlock?

(Winnie speaks)

Grady Whitlock

(Evelyn speaks)

No, Forest Whitlock

(Winnie speaks)

Grady's son

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Forest Whitlock?

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

See Forest Whitlock, live right down here

(Evelyn speaks)

Was it ever a store across the street from them?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

On top of that hill?

(Evelyn speaks)

No, ump-ump, right down on Main Street

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Mr. Mills used to have a store down there but-

(Winnie speaks)

Mr. Mill was a white man, Mr. Mill-?

(Evelyn speaks)

No, I'm talking about a black business up here in the black neighborhood, on that side. You don't remember? What about the one beside Aunt Gracie, was there ever a store beside Aunt Gracie Dyson?

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Not that I can remember

(Evelyn speaks)

You don't remember that store, the kids use to come, they would always come to after school. The Galloways lived in that same area

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Well now, like if you go out here out this road the Galloways lived right across here-

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, there was a store beside them

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

See now that's what I'm saying, the only store, that was along the café, down here, but outside of that I don't know

(Evelyn speaks)

That was up there when I was in school. That was in the fifties and it was before that. And I don't know who owned it

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

And I don't know that, I am going to ask Mrs. Mary Jarvis do she remember a store, outside of Mr. Tom's then next-

(Winnie speaks)

When we think about young people today, and their lives are right different from yours growing up, is there anything-

(Mrs. Johnson speaks)

Come home right today, and they over to Uncle Albert's, and then I hear about ten o'clock the telephone will ring. "Mama, I'm on to Uncle Albert's, you want to speak to him?". And I say "No!" what I got to speak to him for? Well at least I can-

<tape breaks at 1:01:37>

(Mrs. Johnson continues)

Well that starts at home, the Bible tells you that. The correction is supposed to start at home. You can't send your child to school, and expect for the teacher with all those children there to correct them, you have to do that at home

(Winnie speaks)

You seem to have a certain contentment with your life, what does that come from?

<tape breaks at 1:02:08>