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Rita Wicks-Nelson
(Agent of Receiving Organization)

Willie Hise
(Donor)

October 8, 1999
(Date)

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS WITH
MRS. WILLIE HISE**

September 28 and October 8, 1999

Logan, West Virginia

Interviewers: Rita-Wicks Nelson, Ph.D., Ancella Radford Bickley, Ed.D.

Transcriptionist: Julie Lewis

AB: This is Ancella Bickley speaking. Rita Wicks-Nelson and I are at the home of Mrs. Willie Hise in Logan, West Virginia doing interviews. Today is September 28th, 1999.

RW-N: So uh, Mrs. Hise, you might begin by telling us your full name, where you were born, and when you were born.

WH: My name, Willie Henderson Hise. And I was born, uh, April 5th, 1920 in Kimball, West Virginia.

RW-N: Where is Kimball?

WH: That's in McDowell County. (RW-N: Uh-huh, okay.) And uh, I uh, I don't remember too much about that because I, my family moved to Ohio. Uh, my, my father bought a farm in Ohio. It's just -- it was in a place called 20 Mile Stand, out -- it was 20 miles from Cincinnati and I think it -- there was another, uh, another township someplace else. Anyhow it was 20 Mile Stand. I also understand that now they have a little store that we used to go to it's sort of a historic (RW-N: Uh-huh) building now. It's something.

AB: Were your parents West Virginians?

WH: Um, my, my mother was, was from Pearisburg, Virginia and my father was from North Carolina. Now I can't tell you exactly where, where in North Carolina.

AB: What were their names?

WH: Uh, my mother's name was Sarah Lybrooks and. . .

AB: Spell that, Lybrooks.

WH: L-y-b-r-o-o-k-s. (AB: Uh-huh) Sarah Lybrooks. (AB: Uh-huh) And she married, uh, William Salisbury Henderson. (AB: Mmm-hmm) They met in uh, Kimball. My uh, aunt, uh, her sister was married to uh, Sam Crider and uh, and that, she used to visit there and that's how they met.

RW-N: So this is your mother's sister?

WH: My mother's.

RW-N: Your mother came to visit here? (WH: Came to visit. . .) In Kimball?

WH: . . . in Kimball. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And uh, that's where she met my father.

AB: Was your father a miner then?

WH: He was a miner.

AB: But he stopped mining to farm?

WH: No, he didn't stop mining cause he was making good money in the mines (AB: Uh-huh) at that time (AB: Uh huh) and uh, and he -- Kimball was a place, it was a thriving place. And he sent, he -- his youngest, his oldest son was there with, with my mother and the children. We stayed about, uh, I think I was -- I can remember; my memory started there. (AB: Mmm hmm) There's a few, a few events that I remember because I, during the -- evidently might have been the, the start of the Depression, I don't know. (AB: Mmm hmm) I don't think it was back that far, was it? Probably, and uh, or else my mother wasn't satisfied being there.

AB: So you're not quite sure why, why. . .

WH: Yes, I'm not sure.

AB: . . . they left West Virginia.

WH: Uh-huh, but, uh, he, he sold the farm and we went back to -- we went to Saint Albans, that's where we were. And I can remember, yes.

AB: Well, let me, now let me back up a minute. You, you have brothers and sisters?

WH: Yes, we were lar -- it's a large family.

AB: How many?

AB: How many?

WH: Uh, 10. [chuckles]

AB: Oh my, 10! Can you name all 10?

WH: All.

AB: And where do you fit in it? Were you the older, the middle, or . . .

WH: I'm 3rd from the youngest.

AB: You're 3rd from the youngest.

WH: 3rd from the youngest.

AB: Okay, well, could you name all 10 of them?

WH: Alright, let me see -- uh, I know, my oldest, Orlando Henderson. (AB: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm) Uh, Bertha, um, Elbert, Elaine, Verna, Roscoe, Lacona, Willie, Marvin, and Ivy. Is that it?

How many is that? [chuckles] Is that 10?

AB: 1, 2. . .

WH: That's right.

AB: How do you spell Lacona?

WH: L-a-c-o-n-a.

AB: That's a pretty name. And Ivy is I-v-e-y?

WH: I-v-y.

AB: I-v-y.

RW-N: And you're 3rd from the youngest you say?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: And all, uh, which of the, you were born here in West Virginia. Were the other children

born. . . ?

WH: All of us were born in West Virginia. We, they all, like I said, we were only out of West Virginia about -- approximately 3 years in Ohio when he bought that farm and, uh, I, the things, like I said, my memory started there. (AB: Mmm-hmm) I remember the going away thing, event that they had for us. And I remember them loading the, the horses (AB: Uh-huh, to come back to West Virginia.) to, to West Virginia because he . . .

AB: And you came to Saint Albans?

WH: Saint Albans.

AB: And where in Saint Albans did you live?

WH: We lived up on, uh, the hill there. What is it? Uh, let me see. Who lived up there?

AB: Uh, Miss uh. . .

WH: House -- Cause he loved to get houses on the hill, [chuckles] you know. Uh, the Epps?

AB: Yes, that's who I was thinking about, Miss Epps. (WH: Yeah) Miss Epps lived up there. (WH: Uh-huh) Uh-huh and then Mr. A, Aheart later on bought up there. (WH: Mmm-hmm) I know where you're talking about. . . And where did you go to school?

WH: Uh Carter G. Woodson (AB: Uh-huh) in Saint Albans. I attended the, from the time I started to the 6th grade and from there I, I, we moved to, uh, Logan.

AB: So you finished high school here in Logan?

RW-N: From 7th grade?

WH: From, from 7th grade through the, through the 12th (AB: Uh-huh) here at, at Aracoma High School as a student.

AB: And all your family did that?

WH: Oh no, they were, they were, uh, most of them finished at, went to school at the Teacher Training School at Institute. (AB: Mmm-hmm) Uh, now the only 2, they went, Roscoe and Verna were the ones that went to, went to Teacher Training, uh, School that they finished here. Those are the only 2 that started Teacher Training that did not finish. They finished at Aracoma High School. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: Now that high school was 7 to 12?

WH: Yes, mmm-hmm. 6 year. I think they're sort of getting back to that sort of thing.

RW-N: Would you spell the name of the high school, please?

WH: A-r-a-c-o-m-a, Aracoma High School. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.)

AB: So when your brothers and sister went to State High, did, uh, they live on campus or did they go up on the bus and come back home? I guess they did.

WH: Now, that's interesting because, uh, we lived at Saint Albans and most of the kids that went to, uh, Teacher Training High, they had to catch the street car. (AB: Mmm-hmm) They had to have their tickets on the street car and then they had to ride the ferry. (RW-N: Uh-huh)

AB: Mmm-hmm. Cause it went up on the other side of the river, yes.

WH: Yes, uh-huh. And yeah, cause Roscoe fell out once there. [chuckles] You know, in the water, had to come home and I remember that. And yeah, they [inaudible words]

AB: How many of your brothers and sisters are still living? (WH: Uh) Have you lost any?

WH: Oh, all except one. The youngest one, Marvin.

AB: Marvin.

WH: Marvin and, uh. . .

AB: Marvin's deceased?

WH: No, Marvin is the only one living now.

AB: Oh, the only one living?

WH: Marvin (AB: Uh-huh) and Ivy (AB: Uh-huh) and myself and then Elaine, (AB: Uh-huh) [inaudible word] Elaine. Now she finished Teacher Training High. She was either the top or next to it. She was a good student there at Teacher Training High.

RW-N: So how many of your brothers and sisters then went on to some kind of higher education, teacher training school? It sounds like most of them.

WH: Well, Elaine was the 1st because she was a teacher at, uh, Aracoma High School, taught me in fact. [chuckles] (RW-N: Oh) And then, uh, uh, let me see, Roscoe, see Elbert did not, uh, was before Roscoe, but he did not finish, uh, finish, uh, college. He, so he went, when the, when war, the war started, you see, he, he completed his education after, (AB: Uh-huh) after, with the G.I. And Orlando was always a miner. He, uh, was a brakesman. And his family, uh, uh, he, they were all interested in making sure that the children had a good education. So, see, his family, they're all teachers. I believe, no, see, Ray is a doctor in Indianapolis. That's where my brother went, (AB: Mmm-hmm) Indianapolis. (AB: Mmm-hmm) He was a doctor, my brother Roscoe became a doctor.

AB: Uh-huh, oh, your brother Roscoe became a doctor?

WH: A doctor. He taught school (AB: Uh-huh) and then after he got married, he and his wife, oh, that brings up -- Is it alright? It brings up something else.

AB: Sure, sure.

WH: I just, just received word Saturday that she, that his wife had passed. Christian, Russell Christian. (AB: Uh-huh) That, that's a nice family from Mount Hope (AB: Uh-huh) that he

married into. She just passed.

AB: So you all came back to, you, to West Virginia, lived in Saint Albans and then left Saint Albans and came back (WH: Came. . .) to Logan County?

WH: Now, not back to Logan County.

AB: Uh, right, cause you had not been here, right. But came to Logan County. And you came to Logan County because your father was working here?

WH: At the time that's right. He had left, left Kimball (AB: Mmm-hmm) so he was working here.

AB: Uh-huh, and uh, did your mother work?

WH: While, yes, my mother worked, uh, I, she worked, she worked a short time when we were in Ohio for a, a wealthy farmer. (AB: Mmm-hmm) I don't know what she did, but she worked there because he used --, uh I don't know whether she was taking care of the children or what because Orlando, my oldest brother was with her, uh, you know, was with her there. And, uh, by the way, he had a Model T Ford, so he was driving then. [chuckles] We weren't, weren't too -- she worked then and then when we got, when we came to Saint Albans she worked some. She, uh, she took care of a lady's, elderly, her moth -- her mother.

AB: Do you know how far your mother went in school?

WH: Now, um, we were talking about that last night, Kesler and I. I'm sure, I believe that she went as far as the 8th grade and, uh, I believe my father went that far because he had a -- I don't -- he had a lovely handwriting. He had a beautiful hand, he wrote beautiful. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: Do you know the birthdates of your parents?

WH: Now I'm not sure, so I need to. . . (AB: Mmm-hmm) My mother, my mother died young.

She was, uh, 55 when she passed and my father was -- had, was -- it was just past his, let me see, 65th birthday.

AB: And were they here in Logan County when they passed, both of them?

WH: Yes, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: And how old were you when your mother passed?

WH: Around 13.

AB: Were there any, did your parents ever tell you any stories of slavery?

WH: No, never. (AB: Never, mmm-hmm) Just from hearing different things about the family, I don't know whether, uh, whether -- There was a free state in Virginia, they said they called it. Some, some, some, some, some people that lived out in the -- in the county in Virginia were never slaves. I don't know; they may have been, been indentured servants. [inaudible words] (AB: Mmm-hmm) But I don't remember them ever saying that the, any of them were slaves. Now I asked my brother Elbert once, I said, I asked him where, you know, if they were, my father was a slave. He said, "No." He said, "He came off of a reservation." [chuckles]

AB: So you think there might have been Native American in your family (WH: Yes, uh-huh) somewhere?

WH: Oh, definitely so. (AB: Mmm-hmm) Because my mother looks that and her, my aunt, er uh, definitely.

AB: Both of, your mother and your aunt looked as if they were Indian?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: Uh, what about the white side of the family? I mean did you have any, any white relatives or great-grandparents or anything like that that you ever heard of?

WH: No, uh.

AB: Just Native American's all that you (WH: Yes) you heard of? (WH: Mmm-hmm) Uh-huh.

(RW-N: Okay) What, what was your home life like? Um, did you all have chores as children?

WH: Ooh, yes, mmm-hmm. When my mother worked, uh, uh, she appointed, uh, each, uh, there were, the uh, the oldest girl had uh, charge of the youngest and uh, they were, they were assigned so that we'd make, made sure that if, that we were, we were dressed and hair was combed and, oh, made sure that we looked nice. (AB: Mmm-hmm) So they had their -- that was their assignment.

AB: Did you have to cook and clean house and things like that too?

WH: All of that, too, mmm-hmm. All of it.

RW-N: What about the boys in the family? (WH: Well) Did they have chores?

WH: I'm sure they did, I'm sure they did. But I remember the, the girl part. Uh. . .

RW-N: So the boys were doing things, they were doing other kinds of things, you think?

WH: Probably working, you know how the, the how, how it is, uh. They have to have their pin money. There wasn't any such thing as "my allowance" [chuckles]. (RW-N: Right) They had to make their own money.

AB: So the boys worked outside of the home (WH: Sort of.) somehow for the people that had. What about the girls? Did you all work outside of the home?

WH: I, uh, I worked 1 week when I, [chuckles] when I was -- finished high school and uh, the superintendent of, of -- the superintendent at Peach Creek at the time, uh, he, they had a girl that stayed with them that did their, their, the work for them. And she, she wasn't satisfied. He, he met my father at the store and was telling him about it, says, "I, I hear you have a lot of

daughters.” And wanted to know, he says, “Well, no, my daughters are, oh, they all have work to do. They, I, I can’t spare my daughters.” And he said, “Just, could you just spare one for a week?” And uh, he said, “Well, I’ll have to talk to you about it.” And he came and I was the one picked because I’m the one [chuckles] I cook a little bit and I, I sort of took care of that especially (AB: Mmm-hmm) when the, the 4 of us, Lacona, Marvin, and I and Ivy (AB: Mmm-hmm) were at home. So I was responsible for the meals. So uh, he says, “I believe I’ll do that.” You know, sometimes they had to do favors (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) and uh, so I worked for them for a week. And uh, what surprised me was that on, you had to work. I’m -- I, I went early; I went around 7:30 and uh, her husband was already at work and I washed the dishes and had to scrub the kitchen and uh, I remember cleaning up after they had a party and they had this -- Oh, I’d better not say that. [laughter]

Well anyway. . .

AB: But, but you did work for them for that week?

WH: [inaudible words] I worked for them.

RW-N: And how old were you then?

WH: I was 16. (RW-N: Uh-huh) And so, she asked, she told me, she said, “I like you.” And, uh, she wanted to know if I would -- says, “If, if you worked for me,” says, “I’ll tell that girl to stay.”

I says, “No, I can’t, I’m leaving for school on, on Sunday.” (AB: Mmm-hmm) She says, “Oh.”

And she told me to stop by, she had a gift for me, but I didn’t get a chance to stop by.

AB: But that’s the only time you ever (WH: That’s the only time.) worked away from home? And your sisters didn’t work either, just the boys (WH: Now ...) in the family worked out?

WH: Now they, now I won’t say they didn’t work. They, they, they babysat for people. (AB:

Mmm-hmm) They did that.

AB: Mmm-hmm. But, and, and your mother wasn't working very much so you all lived with your father's salary pretty much?

WH: Um, yes, pretty much so. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: But you said your mother did some kind of work?

WH: Yes, she worked too, and she -- like I said, in St. Albans, she, she took care of this uh, lady that uh, -- the Colonial Inn. (AB: Uh-huh) She worked there and she took care of her, her, her mother. My oldest sister, too, worked at, worked there at the pla -- at the same place.

RW-N: Now you grew up in a large family (WH: Yes, mmm hmm)um and were one of -- among the younger, so I would imagine and that some of your older brothers and sisters were leaving home as you grew up, right? (WH: Mmm-hmm, yes) Getting married, going off to school? (WH: Mmm-hmm, mm-hmm) So the home changed in that sense?

WH: Yes, that's right, uh-huh. That's the reason I was responsible for, for the -- make -- making sure that the meals were ready (RW-N: Uh-huh) and uh, Lacona, my -- she was 2 years older than me, looked after the house, the cleaning, made sure that it was clean. We did everything, we did everything.

AB: Did you all garden?

WH: Yes, now my brother, Marvin, gar -- helped fa -- helped my father with that. We had chickens, things like that.

AB: And did you have uh, did you have hogs and things like that?

WH: We never had hogs.

AB: Just chickens.

WH: Chickens.

AB: And did you can?

WH: Yes, mm-hmm. The open pot method. [chuckles] We never, you know, on the farm, we did, but not, not in St. Albans, no, not the younger ones.

AB: And when you came to Logan County, uh, did you farm? I mean did you have a garden and whatnot here?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: Where in Logan County did you all live? Did you live in your own home or a company house or what?

WH: A company house at Peach Creek. And then, uh, uh, uh, the, the year I finished, uh, before I finished college, uh, they were -- things were getting pretty bad at the uh, place where my father worked and uh, they were getting rid of all of the older men, you know. This -- so uh, we uh, he uh, he bought a place up on the hill at Cora, a, a nice home. Cause like I said, he always liked the hill (RW-N: Uh-huh) and uh, up there, at . . . [chuckles] I'm laughing because I was listening to an old comedian this morning. He said that whenever you had uh, you know, the people that really needed to buy things, you had to, had to give up just about everything so -- Elaine was teaching. Roscoe was teaching here. And Jimmy, that's my -- Verna's husband was teaching. He was a principal of grade school at Omar and uh, they all had to go together. So it was something like, uh, uh, it was a large house and they had their own quarters, you know. (AB: Mmm-hmm) It wasn't too bad.

AB: So the family helped, they bought a sort of family home (WH: Yes) and your mother and father were there and. . .

WH: Not my moth -- my mother had passed. (AB: Mmm-hmm) My mother passed when we were -- before. (AB: Mmm-hmm) But my father was living.

AB: Your father was there and some of his sons and daughters (WH: Yes) were living with him, (WH: Yes) uh-huh.

WH: So that was the -- the only thing he did was, was the caretaker. He took care of everything, but at the time, when he left You know they didn't have things like social security, no retirement and stuff like that and you had to look after your parents. And uh, . . .

RW-N: So he had no retirement?

WH: No retirement.

RW-N: And he had been a miner most of his life?

WH: Yes, uh-huh. So uh, well he was, he had a, a friend; the, the fellow liked him quite a bit because when he told him what he wanted, where -- he found it and -- the Queens -- they're still in real estate, their people. He's sti -- he, he got it for him. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And so that's the way it was. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And see, it was stipulated that -- have the house, but make sure that he's cared for, (AB: Mmm-hmm) you know. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

AB: So uh, in your home then, you all didn't feel, uh, want. I mean you always had enough to eat and always had your own home and things of that sort?

WH: Some, you know, we all, yeah, we had uh, uh, yes, uh-huh. And sti -- like we didn't own the home down at Peach Creek. We were on -- that was a mining camp. (AB: Mmm-hmm) (RW-N: Yeah) And uh, but I think uh, he must, [inaudible], I, when I asked my oldest sister Elaine, she says, "Oh." I says, "How about our family and so?" She said, "Oh, we did alright," [chuckles] you know. So, just sort of a -- and we -- it was a nice, uh, family atmosphere. We did okay.

AB: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm. What was Christmas like at your house?

WH: Oh, that was a big time. [chuckles]

AB: Was it?

WH: Yeah, not, you always liked, uh, I mean we, we always got things that we wanted, little things. (AB: Mmm-hmm) Not, not, uh, uh, not expensive things that I know of, but I always liked dishes and dolls and things like that and he made sure we had uh, had black dolls. (AB: Uh-huh)

AB: Really?

WH: Mmm-hmm.

AB: Well, he had to go to some length to get them then?

WH: Yes, he did.

AB: That -- you just couldn't go into the department stores and find those.

WH: Right, uh-huh. So he, uh, I remember our house burned that we lived in, uh, for -- up at, uh, at Cora in the later years. And uh, most of those things got burned.

AB: Were lost. (RW-N: Oh) (WH: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: Oh. Did you have a Christmas tree?

WH: Oh, yes.

RW-N: Did you believe in Santa Claus?

WH: Yes, indeed. [laughter]

RW-N: How old were you when you gave that up, idea up? [laughter]

WH: Oh, let me see. I believe it was after, after, uh, after my mother passed and, you know, when I was pretty good sized kid. (AB: Mmm-hmm) They said it was better to believe in Santa

Claus so you'd get something. [laughter] Said, "Don't let them know that, don't let them know.

Yes, I believe."

RW-N: So you pretended for a few years?

WH: Yes.

AB: What was your social life like? Did you all have birthday parties or did you have girlfriends or what?

WH: Uh, oh, uh, I think uh, most of our social life was at home now. And see, since my father was, my father was uh -- when he was in -- he was, he was a deacon in the church at, when we were at Kimball. That's what I understand and uh, he was very well thought of in the community there. And uh, he didn't like, he didn't like, he didn't he didn't care for drinking. He didn't have that -- wasn't in his house; he didn't have any card playing, no dancing. So when he was away from home, we danced. [laughter] They taught us how to dance, (RW-N: So your mother. . .) do the Charleston, all that sort of stuff.

RW-N: So that was okay with your mother?

WH: Oh, yes. Uh, she was a little more lenient because she had to look after us sometimes, so I mean it was just fun. It wasn't anything. . .

RW-N: Yeah, so she was a little more flexible (WH: Yes) about that? (WH: Uh-huh) What church was that that your father was a deacon of?

WH: A Baptist church in uh, Kimball.

RW-N: And you all went to that church?

WH: Now I didn't. See I was (RW-N: You were young.), I was young.

RW-N: Yeah. But the fam. . . (WH: The family) As you grew up, was -- is the Baptist church the

church that your family went to?

WH: Yes, all except me. I, my, my uh, I changed when I was about 26, I believe.

AB: To what?

WH: Catholic.

AB: To Catholic.

WH: They, they had such a, uh, uh, Father Norton; he had these uh, radio programs here and uh, he was so good. And uh, I know, you know Emma Barnes Carter -- a Dr. Carter was a dentist, uh, hum, and Rosalie Adams?

AB: That sounds familiar.

WH: Robinson (AB: Mmm hmm) from Huntington.

AB: Uh huh, uh-huh. Yeah, Dr. Adams' daughter.

WH: Yes, (AB: Yeah, mmm hmm) uh huh. She taught here. (AB: Mmm-hmm) Stayed with us a lot, you know, (AB: Mmm-hmm) especially when they came from -- started back to school. They were always staying until they found a place (AB: Uh-huh) of their own. So Emma, Emma was the one that uh, -- I would listen to the radio programs and she told me she was going and after school she told me come, asked me to come and go with her and uh, to instructions and all and I did and that's how I -- I'm the, uh, only one.

AB: And you continue (WH: Yes) as, as a Catholic, uh, now? Uh, when you were growing up though was the, the church very, an important part of the life of your family?

WH: Yes, mmm hmm, yes. My mother, my mother went to Baptist church at St. Albans, a Reverend Robinson.

AB: At Saint Paul's?

WH: Saint Paul's Baptist Church, Reverend Robinson, Alice, Alice, uh, [inaudible] uh, her father.

(AB: Mmm hmm) Alice and Catherine Robinson.

RW-N: And did you all have to go?

WH: Oh, yes.

RW-N: On Sundays?

WH: Yes.

RW-N: And other times as well?

WH: Mmm hmm. Elaine taught, uh, uh, taught us, uh, B.Y.P.U, Baptist Young People. She taught a class; she taught us that.

AB: And when you came to, uh, Logan County, did you, uh, your -- develop a church relationship here, too?

WH: Yes, my father did, (AB: Mmm hmm) mmm hmm, because, yes. He went to church every Sunday and he took the tw -- Marvin and Ivy - - the 2 youngest that, uh -- youngest kids. And Lacona and I were, we had to see that uh, dinner was ready and all that sort of stuff. We didn't get to go much.

AB: Uh-huh, so, but he didn't insist that you go to church?

WH: No, no. I had other things to do.

AB: How did the family react when you became Catholic?

WH: No, they did not want that, mmm hmm. Uh.

AB: Your father was still living at that time?

WH: No.

AB: He had passed by then?

WH: He had passed and I, I think it was, you know, that might have had something to do it. I felt sort of lost and uh,

RW-N: You mean [WH: Inaudible. Mmm hmm] when he passed? And you were feeling lost?

WH: Yes, I believe, during that period of time and then I lost my sister, Lacona (AB: Mmm-hmm) at that time. We were close (AB: Mmm hmm) (RW-N: Uh-huh) and uh, so that's probably why.

AB: What about your own family, your boys? Were they brought up as Catholic?

WH: [Sighs] My husband, uh, Michael was, was christened. (AB: Mmm hmm) That's as far as it went. My husband wasn't too bent on it. (AB: Mmm hmm) But in, in 1985, he, he figured, he saw where he couldn't change my mind. I didn't mind whether he went, you know, went, (AB: Uh-huh) wherever. I think religion and things like that, I think that's important to what people -- what they can get out of it. So he, uh, he decided he'd go with me and uh, we go to the Catholic church (AB: Mmm hmm) when we'd go. (AB: Mmm hmm) [chuckles]

RW-N: So you were married when you changed your religion?

WH: No, I, I -- before, before.

RW-N: Before, so, where, what church were you married in?

WH: I wasn't married in church. I was uh, married at a rectory, you know, they have things like that.

RW-N: The rectory of the Catholic church?

WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm. Because he wasn't Catholic. (RW-N: Mmm hmm)

AB: If we could go back to the social life, you said your father did not let you all dance or play cards or anything at home. What about activities that went on at school? Were you able to

participate in those things?

WH: Yes, uh-huh, the, the socials and things like that. He didn't really know until, I know Inez Thomas, we al -- we always gave a, a show. She had a show every -- during the school year and uh, they, she, they taught, taught little, little dance, uh, groups, you know, little special groups. And I'm the smallest thing so I'm always leading and so [chuckles] the buses would stay over at school and uh, she, he said, we'd tell him when the buses were late and I said, I says, "Papa," I said, "are you coming?" Cause I wasn't going be in it if he He says, "No, no daughter, I don't think I can make it. I won't be. . ." Uh, he was working. "I won't be home in time." Says, "I won't make it." And that particular time [chuckles] he decided to come. He said, "I'd better go and see what. . ." [laughter] And, and, but we, we didn't know it. See, I'm all -- we're all ready at school, our bus staying over. Elaine and Rosalie knew; Rosalie Adams knew that he was in the audience and they were laughing at me because I'm up there just a dancing away. [laughter] And said, and said, they said, "They don't know," said, "she doesn't know he's out there." [laughter] I would've, I would've run; I would've gone. But, so after that then they told me. I said, "Oh, no, you didn't tell me that." I was afraid to go home. So . . .

RW-N: But you didn't get in trouble at home?

WH: No, I didn't get in trouble.

AB: Did he say anything about it?

WH: Oh, yes, he did. He said, he says, "Well, I was -- How was it?" He caught him a cab and went home. "How was it?" And I said, I said, "Everything was alright," I didn't let him know I knew. And he said, says, "Daughter, I didn't know your feet could go so fast." [laughter]

AB: Didn't know your feet could go that fast? [laughter]

WH: Oh, and he, he just made a joke of it, but uh --.

AB: But you didn't get punished or anything like that?

WH: I didn't get punished for it, but . . . [inaudible words]

AB: So there were basketball games and things (WH: Mmm hmm, we got to go.) like that that you could participate in?

WH: Yes, because the buses stayed over.

AB: Mmm-hmm. All the kids were bused into the school?

WH: That's right. The buses stayed over when they had events like that.

AB: What about junior senior prom? Did you have one?

WH: Um, yes. I went to all -- I went to proms from the 9th grade through the 12th. I'm always the one of the, they always liked to get. . . When I was in the 9th grade and the 10th grade, see I went and uh, served them. I was one of those. (AB: Mmm hmm) And then when I got in the 11th and 12th grades see I, I

AB: You were a guest at that point. Did you have a date?

WH: Yes.

AB: Did your father let you date?

WH: Uh, for the prom.

AB: What about other times?

WH: Uh, the, the fellows could come, uh, he had a -- his curfew was at 9 o'clock. They sat on the porch. This was during the summer. We didn't, we didn't have too much dating in -- you know, maybe sometimes on Sunday evenings, Sunday afternoons, some of the fellows from other communities would visit, you know. But he was definite about that that -- he would start winding

his clock. [chuckles]

AB: That meant it was time to go?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

RW-N: And he'd put an alarm on your, on the clock?

WH: No, he'd just wind it, you know, his own clock.

RW-N: Oh, he'd, oh, to let people know it's getting ready to go.

WH: Uh, we'd say, "Well, we'll see you." [chuckles] Oh, he's very strict about that. Yes, and Kesler reminds me a lot about uh, my father in that instance. He'll, he'll say things and I say, "Oh, that just sounds like him." And then he'd give you a chance to do it, do it nicely. Then he, you know, he'll start embarrassing you. [laughter]

RW-N: Now this is your husband you're talking about?

WH: Yeah, my husband.

RW-N: Would you spell his name?

WH: Kesler,

RW-N: K-e. . .

WH: Kes, Kesler, K-e-s-l-e-r.

RW-N: And you said that he reminds of your father now?

WH: At that point.

RW-N: Sometimes.

WH: Uh-huh, yes, uh-huh. [chuckles]

AB: Did you play any sports at school, basketball or anything like that?

WH: No, no, I didn't. I wasn't in that, just in gym, just gym class.

RW-N: Did your brothers and sisters or some of them?

WH: Uh, we were, we were sort of small people. Roscoe went out for uh, for football when he came here, but uh, he, he he injured his leg (RW-N: Mmm hmm), he injured his leg. And he wasn't, he didn't weigh a hundred and fi -- about a hundred and -- between a hundred and ten, a hundred and twenty-five pounds. He, he was the quarterback. [chuckles] So he just, that put him out. You don't [inaudible] those guys are big. (AB: Right) I'm telling you. He was out; he was so [inaudible word].

RW-N: What were your, what were some of your favorite activities growing up, even, even younger than, than high school?

WH: Uh, for me it was uh, sewing (RW-N: Uh-huh) and playing with dolls and uh, that's about, about it and like I said, having, uh, playing games with the family.

AB: Did you have other kids around you to play with beyond your brothers and sisters?

WH: Very seldom, very seldom. Now the older ones did, uh huh, the older ones.

RW-N: Now when you say playing games, do you mean board games (WH: Board games.) or cards?

WH: Not, not cards, board games.

RW-N: No, yeah, not cards. (WH: Uh-huh) What kind of board games? Do you remember?

WH: Oh, uh, Old Maid for sure. [chuckles]

RW-N: Oh, now that, now that's a card game, right? (AB: But, but that's allowed. Yeah) right? (WH: Mmm-hmm,) (AB: That was permitted.) Yes, yes. Did you play checkers and . . . ?

WH: Yes, mm-hmm. (AB: Dominoes?) (RW-N: Chinese checkers?) Things like that.

RW-N: Those kinds of things. Was there much play outside, um, playing hide and seek (WH: Yes, mmm hmm) or tag and. . . ? Do you remember any of those kinds of games?

WH: Yes, I -- [inaudible] we played hide and seek until dark. [chuckles]

RW-N: And did you ever play, um, um, what were some of those others? Kick the can.

AB: Kick the can?

WH: No. (AB: Yes.). We didn't have that one (AB: Yes). Marbles, (AB: Marbles. Yes.

Yes)(WH: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Mmm hmm)

AB: Uh, were there any clubs at school that you were a member of?

WH: The 4-H Club. And I was in, uh, going to Carter G. Woodson. And I, I know -- the lady was from, from State would come over for 4-H (AB: Mmm hmm) work.

AB: Were there any Girl Scouts, anything like that or Y-Teens or anything like that?

WH: No, nothing, not like that, not then.

AB: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm. What about the boys? Were, were there any clubs for them?

WH: I don't remember any. I don't recall any.

AB: Did they have a choir at school? Were you a part of anything like that or a band or anything like that?

WH: While I was at -- I played the, played the violin, uh, uh, in th -- it was part of the band program. I was in -- (AB: Mmm hmm) I played violin. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) Uh, let me see, that's about all.

AB: Did you play the violin at home too or just at school in. . . ?

WH: Oh, uh, I could play the violin, you know, I practiced. In fact, he didn't mind that because

my sister Verna used to take violin lessons from, oh -- it was a noted violinist over at State when she was in high school and I would, I'd, uh, had her violin so when, when Morshen Rider started a violin trio, duet, well, no, it was 4 of us. I took violin lessons.

AB: Did you keep that up as an adult?

WH: Uh, he wanted to, to, he said he would come to, uh, West Virginia State and, cause I, and I couldn't, I couldn't do that (AB: Mmm hmm) because, uh, I had too many other -- I had, it was too much. (AB: Mmm hmm. [inaudible] So you just didn't--) I gave it up. But it meant -- I have an appreciation for violin music because that thing's hard to play. [chuckles] I'm telling you it is. I have. . .

AB: In what year did you graduate from high school?

WH: '36.

AB: In 1936. And then what did you do?

WH: Straight, uh, I spent the summer at home and went straight to college in the fall.

AB: Uh-huh, and where did you go to college?

WH: West Virginia State College.

AB: Uh-huh, mmm hmm. And you lived on campus?

WH: Yes.

AB: Where, in what dorm?

WH: Well, uh, uh, Dawson Hall, uh, MacCorkle Hall over the dining room (AB: Mmm hmm) and then they had, they were building, uh, Hill, and when Hill Hall was built I was one of, one of the students, one of the 1st students to move to Hill. (AB: Mmm hmm) So I lived in Hill Hall.

AB: And what year did you graduate?

WH: 1940.

AB: Uh-huh, and then what did you do?

WH: I, uh, -- back to, back to Aracoma High School as a teacher. (RW-N: Inaudible)

AB: You were able to come immediately into Aracoma as a, as a teacher? What were you teaching?

WH: Home economics. (AB: Mmm hmm) I, I got my degree in home economics.

RW-N: Now that degree would be a bachelor of science?

WH: B.S. Mmm hmm.

RW-N: In home economics?

WH: Mmm hmm, yes.

RW-N: Um, and was that at the secondary level? Yes?

WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm.

RW-N: Did you find the need after that to go back to college to get any graduate credits?

WH: Well, it was compulsory that you, at least after a certain time, you -- to get at least 6 hours of graduate work. Let me see, where did I go? I have to put that down cause I'm old now.

[chuckles] So let's see, I went to, uh, uh, the University of Michigan one summer (RW-N: Uh-huh) because they didn't, we, we couldn't, we couldn't do graduate work here in West Virginia. So the state paid. . .

RW-N: You mean it wasn't available (AB: No.) -- for black people (AB: For black people) for black people. (AB: Right.)

WH: So the state paid for us to go.

RW-N: Do you know what summer that was?

WH: Now I'm not sure.

RW-N: Was it soon or was it relatively soon after you were out of college?

WH: No, I imagine it was about 4, it was about 4 years after that.

RW-N: And you still could not do graduate. . .

WH: No, couldn't do the graduate work.

RW-N: . . . work. So you went to the University of Michigan for one summer?

WH: Michigan, one summer. And uh, let me see, and then at, then the then the next time I went to school, I was in health. See, I, my, my degree was in, well, I had a B.S. but uh, uh, I, I wasn't, I wasn't in -- they didn't have a home economics program there, so I was a, I, I took health education.

RW-N: So is your degree (WH: health education) in health education?

WH: Health education. No, no, I took for -- 6 hours of work; I was in, in that department.

AB: That was at, when you went to Michigan?

WH: Michigan.

AB: They had a home ec degree at, at State, but not one at Michigan.

WH: Not at -- so I followed my brother. He said, "You'd better come on and go with me," cause he was getting his master's. (RW-N: Uh-huh) Said, "So you can get some hours in and get, get some, get, be, get familiar with the . . ." (AB: Mmm hmm), so I went up there and that, uh, summer. And then, let's see, where else did I go? Uh, University of Michigan one summer, Cornell. Uh, that [inaudible words].

RW-N: Cornell.

WH: Cornell University. I got on the train right here in, at Logan and went all the way to Ithaca,

New York.

AB: What made you choose Cornell?

WH: Oh, they, their program, home economics, (AB: Mmm hmm, okay) It was a, a lovely place to go. (AB: Uh-huh) It was, it was an experience for me.

AB: And when you went to Michigan, that was the 1st time for you to go into an integrated school situation. (WH: Right) Was that right? How did you, how did you manage that?

WH: Well, alright because there were, see uh, there were several, uh, uh, people in uh, in uh, that was there at the University of Michigan from, from our area.

AB: Mmm-hmm. So you didn't feel alone or . . . ?

WH: No.

AB: Intimidated?

WH: No.

AB: At all? What about at Cornell?

WH: Well now, luckily, I didn't feel intimidated there. [chuckles]

AB: Where did you stay?

WH: In, at, in the dormitory.

AB: And at Michigan you stayed in the dorm too?

WH: No, we stayed -- at Michigan, we stayed, uh, I don't think, think that I was -- I don't think that they could stay in the dormitories in Michigan. I'm not sure, but anyhow, we stayed at a lady's house at -- that, that uh, took, took in summer students.

AB: Mmm hmm, but you stayed in the dorm at Cornell?

WH: At Cornell.

AB: And did, would you, did you go back to Cornell after that?

WH: No, I didn't go back.

RW-N: Were there many black students at Cornell? Or in your area? I mean, I guess I'm asking you how you made out with that issue at Cornell? (WH: Well) Cause you probably didn't have a lot of West Virginians up there, did you?

WH: No, I, I met a lovely lady from, from Florida -- Jacksonville, Florida. She was up for the same purpose, getting, getting summer work and . . .

RW-N: She's a black woman you're talking about?

WH: Yes, and a, a lady from uh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And incidentally, she was Catholic. So [Inaudible] we went to -- you know, cause my, the father here at -- had told me to make sure to visit the uh, visit the. . . What do you call it when they have, all of the denominations have. . . ?

RW-N: Ecumenical?

WH: There's a place.

RW-N: Oh, a place?

WH: They're all, all of them have, have, um. . .

AB: On campus.

WH: Mmm hmm.

AB: Uh-huh, non-denominational, uh, chapel or something.

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

RW-N: Were you Catholic at the time, (WH: At the time.) already, mmm hmm?

WH: . I went up there.

AB: So after Cornell, did you go back to school again?

WH: Only, uh, yes. I went to uh, I uh -- by that time, I went to, I took the uh, extension from Marshall. Marshall had an extension course then (AB: Mmm hmm) here. And I think the, uh, schools were integrated at that time because the next time I went after -- during integration, well, that meant that, that uh, I did not -- I had a job in home economics, but I wasn't a vocational teacher. And uh, that -- you know, I used to go to, uh, to all, used to go, go to Ripley, Cedar Lakes. (AB: Mmm hmm) We'd go and I'd take kids and, the girls in summer and uh, we would, they would have all kinds of uh, of uh, programs that we had to, to go to. But after that, then I was just a ordinary home economics teacher. (AB: Mmm hmm) Then I, I was sort of demoted because I wasn't getting that extra work, extra. I, I worked an extra month during the summer so, uh, -- then I was teaching home ec and science. I had science at, 3, 3 science classes along with my work.

RW-N: What kind of science was that?

WH: Uh, uh, general science, uh, uh, and uh, earth science. So they had an institute at, uh, an earth science institute up in, up at the West Virginia U. and I went up there. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: So you got like a certificate for going to that institute?

WH: Yes, uh-huh, and credit (AB: Mmm hmm) for that. And uh, at that time, I was married and my children -- so I, I sort of limited that. (AB: Mmm hmm) And the rest of them, I didn't get my master's. I have 19, I have 19 and I thought, either 19 or 21. I have to look it up.

AB: Credit hours that you took in graduate work?

WH: Graduate work.

AB: Uh-huh. Uh, you began, now you're teaching at, uh, Aracoma and you are, uh, doing graduate work during the summer? (WH: Yes) Uh, when did you get married?

WH: 19, uh, 19 and 47.

AB: Mmm-hmm. So you'd been out of school a pretty good while, (WH: Mmm hmm) out of college (WH: Yes) when, when you married. (WH: Mmm hmm) Uh-huh.

RW-N: And that would make you how old when you married?

WH: I don't know.

RW-N: Hadn't. . .

WH: I have, I have to think back.

AB: 27.

RW-N: Twenty. . . right. I didn't catch your birthdate.

AB: Mmm hmm, yeah. And, uh, your husband was living here in Logan as well?

WH: Yes, his family, uh. . .

AB: Was from Logan?

WH: From Logan.

RW-N: Had you known him (WH: Yes) at an earlier time?

WH: Yes, uh-huh. Even in, even during high school. But he was in a, he was o-- older. He finished, uh, high school in '38 and was going down to West Virginia State (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) at the time. And he was at West Virginia State when I was there, but I was just in, [inaudible] He was an upperclass person and I never had any contact with him. The only contact that I did have was when I came back to teach. (AB: Mmm hmm) And that wasn't very long because he went to the Army. (AB: Mmm hmm) You know, (AB: Mmm hmm) he was. . .

AB: And by the time you married, you had converted to Catholicism so you were married in the rectory of the, (WH: Mmm hmm) of the Catholic church. (WH: Mmm hmm) When your children

were born, did you continue to teach through that period or did you take off or what?

WH: Well, it was compulsory that we could not teach at, until, uh, after a year (AB: Mmm hmm) after our children were born so the thing about it ...

RW-N: I'm sorry. Would you say that again?

WH: It was compulsory that you had to stay out a year, one year.

RW-N: You had stay out one year.

WH: Uh-huh, uh-huh. And if they, if they knew you were pregnant, you, you had to get out right then. [chuckles] Sometimes you could, you could kind of get away with it.

AB: Mask it for a while?

WH: Yes, uh-huh. And so I stayed out a whole year when Mike was born. (AB: Uh-huh) I stayed out a whole year. And then when Steve was born, I, I, uh, stayed out, I was out 6 months because the superintendent asked me to go back to work. The lady that took my place was pregnant. [laughter]

RW-N: These women, huh . [laughter]

AB: Who took care of the boys while you worked?

WH: Uh, my sister Verna. She lived, still lived up on the hill. She took care of Michael. And uh, when, after, after Steve was born, I got a lady in the community to come in (AB: Uh-huh) and stay because it was too much (AB: Uh-huh) for me to have carry, carry 2 children. I couldn't make it, it was just, it wouldn't work. (AB: Mmm hmm). [inaudible]

AB: Did you, uh, were you and your husband able to establish a home immediately after you married or did you live with your parents or his parents or so?

WH: Well, I was with, uh, with my sister. See, my, my parents had passed then, Verna and

Jimmy Robinson -- I'm sure you know him and his family -- for a while and then we established,
then we [tape ends]

END OF TAPE 1 - SIDE 1

BEGINNING OF TAPE 1 - SIDE 2

AB: We were talking a few minutes ago about where you lived, uh, when you were 1st married.

WH: Mmm hmm, Holden.

AB: You lived in Holden? And . . .

WH: We bought a house.

AB: You bought a house?

WH: Yes. Mmm hmm.

AB: Uh, and did you say that your -- did you live with your sister or just you and your husband?

WH: Uh, I lived with my sister before we got the house. (AB: Mmm hmm) Just for a short time
(AB: Mm hmm) after that.

AB: Uh, now I'm not familiar with the, this area very much, but you were working in Logan, but
you were living in Holden?

WH: Well, it's just, just, I mean, it's just a few little . . .

AB: Just a mile, a short distance away? (WH: Yeah.) Did you have an automobile by then?

WH: No, I ne -- in fact, I've never owned an automobile myself. (AB: Uh-huh) I've, uh, you
know, I had, I . . . The bus came by about every, every half hour.

AB: And is that the way you went to school in the mornings?

WH: When I didn't catch the school -- the school bus.

AB: Mmm-hmm, so you're now working at Aracoma? (WH: Mmm hmm) Uh, you've been there

maybe 6 or 7 years, (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) you're married and you have 2 children and your husband is also in the school system? (WH: Mmm hmm) Uh, you mentioned a few moments ago that you worked at one point during a summer at the war -- in the War Department.

WH: Mmm hmm, that was before I married.

AB: That was before you married. (WH: Yes) Was that during World War II?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: Would you tell us a little bit about that? How did you get that job?

WH: Well, they were, they were uh, asking for, for us, I believe they, they were asking for teachers, you know, to uh, to come to the War Department. They needed, they needed, uh, people that knew how, knew how to uh, I guess, that knew their alphabets, how to research things, you know.

RW-N: So somehow you f-- you found that out. (WH: Ah, yes, and we. . .) Do you remember how?

WH: They were recruiting. I went to the recruiting place and I guess I passed the test and you know, there were several of us that went to, went there and, uh, I worked at the War Department and, uh. . .

RW-N: So you, do I understand now that you left teaching to do this?

WH: No, just a summer. They wanted the summer work.

RW-N: Just the summer, yes.

WH: The summer work, we worked that summer. Do you know that was, was it the Battle of the, was it the Battle of the Bulge when they crossed over there? I know this guy has a movie out now I want to see.

RW-N: Uh, when they crossed over . (AB: The channel -- the English Channel.?) .

WH: The English Channel.

AB: From the English Channel over into France (WH: Yes) and, uh-huh, during World War II.

WH: That was terrible.

RW-N: You mean D-Day?

WH: Mmm hmm. (RW-N: Inaudible)

AB: Uh, so you were working in Washington when that occurred?

WH: Oh, yes and the, and the, uh, telephone. We had to notify the next of kin. And I was in a room, with about 30 people working and I only worked with S's and those telephone things would come back. I mean I'd have stacks of them and. . .

AB: So you had to call parents or next of kin?

WH: Had to get, had to, had to research -- to find their cards and, and everything. I didn't have to -- and then had to, had to fix it out so that they could, they could research, they could get it.

We had a supervisor. [inaudible words]

RW-N: I'm very interested in this. Tell me again, you got a big stack of. . . ?

WH: Notifications that these people .

RW-N: Notifications that, that these service people had died.

WH: Died and missing in action.

RW-N: Or missing in action. And then what did you have to do about that?

WH: I, I had to get that, pull out the card that they, when they went into the Army.

RW-N: Uh-huh. Their history, (WH: They had stacks of them.) or so. Mmm hmm.

WH: Yes, uh-huh. When they went into the Army and I had to get that out and find out where

they lived and their next of kin people. And it, it does something. . .

RW-N: And then you pass that information to someone else at. . .

WH: They had a special form that you put it on. And then you gave it to the supervisor.

AB: But you didn't actually have to call the parents or so?

WH: No, no, no. They, they. . .

AB: Somebody else did that.

WH: The telegram, you know, they got it, got it ready for that.

RW-N: Now were you, were you talking a minute ago when you referred to a movie, were you talking about *Saving Private Ryan*?

WH: Mmm hmm.

RW-N: Have you seen that movie?

WH: I haven't.

RW-N: There is a scene in that movie that would interest you although it's a very quick scene (WH: Mmm hmm) that, um, shows a room with many, many desks in it and many women sitting at those desks. But they show them with typewriters (WH: Mmm hmm) where they are in effect, noti -- actually notifying (WH: Notifying now.) so they probably made it . . . (WH: Probably, mmm hmm) Well, the movie might have (WH: Uh huh) made it a little more dramatic too in doing it that way.

WH: And then probably, after, after we researched and found the cards and everything, it probably went to, went to another place (RW-N: Yes) because they had, they did have to noti -- (RW-N: For them to do that.), yes.

AB: I think you a moment ago were showing us the, the stacks so there were many, many, many

of these. Is that true?

WH: Many, many.

AB: So you were astonished by the, the numbers (WH: Right, right, right) that you had to handle each day?

RW-N: You put your hand up in the air like this.

WH: Mmm hmm, yes.

RW-N: I mean at this stack [overlapping voices, inaudible words] that you were dealing with.

AB: So that sort of indicates the magnitude of the numbers of people killed (WH: Right) or missing in action during that uh, during that war. . .

RW-N: Is it fair to say that that made a lasting impression on you?

WH: It certainly did.

RW-N: I ask you that because, um, many times, um, some of the women have told us that, uh, although they were aware of World War II, (WH: Mmm hmm) it kind of went, went by them in an easy way. You seem to have more (WH: I know, yes.) of an emotional connection to it.

WH: Yes, indeed. Mmm hmm.

AB: And did you -- some of your brothers were in the service?

WH: Yes, um, uh, Elbert, that's the 1st one. Orla -- (AB: Mmm hmm) Elbert went; he was in the, in the Navy a while and then he, they transferred him to the Marine Corps. And he was in the, uh, well, anyhow, he had to -- oh, I'm, I should have. . . He was with the, he, they, he was transferred to the Marine Corps. (AB: Mmm hmm) And I think that he was in the medical division or something (AB: Mmm hmm) in the Marine Corps.

AB: What about your husband? Was he in the service, too?

WH: Yes, he um, he um, let me see, he went to, he went to uh, Tuskegee Institute for a while and then he said some of his friends down there was telling him that as soon as they were lieutenants they served, they, they shipped them out, you know. [chuckles] He, that's what he said. (AB: Mmm hmm) So he, he uh, he uh, the First Sergeant or Master Sergeant whatever's the, that's, that's what he was. And he, he went in, and he was in, in charge of transportation. He was a, in that division. (AB: Mmm hmm) So he went to Germany.

RW-N: Did he stay in [inaudible]? He went to Germany.

WH: He went to Germany, mmm hmm.

RW-N: Do you remember being worried about loved ones being in the service?

WH: Oh, yes, uh-huh. My brother, Marvin, was, he, uh my father had to uh sign for him. He was 17. I think you had to be 18 to join and he said, was noth -- he had finished high school and wasn't nothing for him to do around here. He was a busboy at one of the restaurants. He wasn't getting nothing and so [inaudible words]. He didn't want him to go but he went and his first year that's when the, when, uh, they declared war in December. (AB: Mmm hmm) And he was one of the 1st, uh, to land in New Guinea. He was among the 1st. He was in the engineering group. (AB: Mmm hmm) And I'm almost sure I saw him in a, and I wished I could get that thing. You know how they used to show movies at the beginning of. . .

AB: The news reels.

WH: The news reels.

AB: Uh-huh and you think [overlapping voices with AB] in one of those . . .

WH: They built those pontoons for them to cross.

AB: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm. And you think you saw him in one of those, in one of those, (WH:

I'm, I'm almost sure.) in one of those news reels.

WH: News reels, mmm hmm.

AB: Do you remember anything else about World War II?

WH: That was the main thing. That was uh, that uh, that uh. [inaudible] .

RW-N: Did you have a star in your window that you had a, that you had service people? Do you recall how families sometimes would like there was a little flag that was hung in the window?

WH: Oh, yes, uh-huh. Well, no, we didn't because we lived up on that hill and wouldn't, (RW-N: Uh huh, yes yes.) -- nobody see it [inaudible words] (RW-N: Yes, uh huh.) like that.

AB: Do you remember the rationing?

WH: Yes, uh-huh, yes, mmm hmm. I do remember that.

AB: What, what do you remember about that?

WH: Well, [chuckles] one of my friends told me that -- where we could get, get us some meat, [chuckles] and it would be nice and come to find out it was -- and I talked to her, I got that meat and I said, "My goodness sakes, this tastes sort of sweet." Was it, I bought a roast and, um, a deep red, and come to find out that they got him for horse meat. [laughter] (RW-N: Oh, no. Oh.) Oh, that, that sort of thing I remember about rationing, but, because I think we, we did alright with that, that part. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Did you ever have any, um, drives to collect aluminum cans? Do you remember anything like that?

WH: No, hmm mmm.

RW-N: Did you ever have any air raid rehearsals, if you could put it that way?

WH: Well, they didn't have those in, uh ...

RW-N: In this area.

WH: In this area.

RW-N: Uh-huh. Where I grew up we had those.

WH: Did they? Is that right? (RW-N: Mmm hmm) Um, I know we had to take first aid be, uh, . . .
[inaudible] the teachers.

AB: Was that a part of your school training at . . . ?

WH: Uh-huh at, over at, over at the court house, made sure that all of us had first aid (RW-N:
Mmm hmm) courses, you know.

AB: You, you spoke of going to the movie and seeing a news reel. Where did you go to the
movie? Here?

WH: Middleburg Theater on Stratton Street.

RW-N: Here in Logan?

WH: Here in Logan.

RW-N: In town?

WH: Mmm hmm.

AB: Was that a segregated theater?

WH: Yes, we had to sit up in the balcony.

AB: Was there a black theater here?

WH: No, there wasn't.

AB: Were there any black restaurants or an American Legion or a nightclub or anything like that
here?

WH: Now, I'm trying to think. May have. . . I, I don't remember that, that uh, uh, it seemed like

uh, there was, was one not too far from the school. The children weren't allowed to go, they, you know, to it. I never did go.

AB: Went to a nightclub or something?

WH: Something like that. (AB: Mmm hmm) Uh, some sort of club.

AB: Mmm hmm, where, if, if you wanted to have a big party or a gathering of any kind here, where did you go?

WH: Mostly to the schools and church that -- you know, mostly to the schools.

AB: Mmm hmm, but in the, in neither the schools or the churches could you have drinking. Uh, so if people wanted a party where there could be dancing and drinking or, or that.

WH: Probab -- in the home, in their homes because I remember I was a member of the So What Club. I didn't want to be a member, but my sister told me that after I finished college and I was 21 years old that I should be able to, adjust to grown-ups and everything like that. I never liked that. So I, I, I joined this club because she was sort of. . .

RW-N: Now what's the name of this club?

WH: It was the So What Club.

AB: So What.

WH: So What.

RW-N: 2 words?

WH: (AB: Mmm hmm) Yes, So What Club. A social club.

RW-N: And is that a social club?

WH: A social club, a social club. We, they used to have a, affairs, but it mostly was at, in homes.

RW-N: Mmm hmm. Where you would sort of party and. . . (WH: Yes, uh-huh) And you didn't

particularly like them?

WH: I didn't like, uh, the people were alright, they were just older than I was and I didn't feel that I was, you know, (RW-N: Uh-huh, uh-huh) that I belonged [chuckles] there. It wasn't, but uh. . . .

AB: Were there lodges here?

WH: Yes.

AB: Was your father a lodge member?

WH: No, no.

AB: And nobody in your family?

WH: Nobody in my family was in the lodge. Now my husband belonged (AB: Mmm-hmm) to the lodge. He's a lodge man.

RW-N: So the social life of your parents was primarily church related?

WH: Right, mmm hmm. That's right, and family.

RW-N: And family related. Did you have, um, other family members that you saw, cousins or aunts and uncles.

WH: Mmm hmm. Well, at summer -- sometimes we went to Virginia. I would, uh -- we would, uh, see some of our, (RW-N: Mmm hmm) our mother's people. I never really saw -- I remember, uh, one of my father's brothers visiting us once in St. Albans. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) That's about the only time (RW-N: Mmm hmm) I remember. (RW-N: Mmm hmm)

AB: Were there fraternities and sororities, uh, active -- when you were coming along?

WH: Uh, not here. Only, it's the, we just celebrated our 50th anniversary, the uh, the sorority.

RW-N: Congratulations.

AB: Mmm hmm, what sorority?

WH: Alpha Kappa Alpha.

AB: And did you join that here or at, in. . .

WH: At school.

AB: In Institute while you were. . .

WH: Institute, while I was in. . .

RW-N: Have you been active in that?

WH: I was a charter member here.

RW-N: Uh-huh.

WH: And I got a nice plaque, got it last Saturday. (RW-N: Uh-huh)

AB: Uh, how did your family, your parents feel about your joining the sorority in college? And how were you able to afford it?

WH: Well, uh, Elaine was a soror; she had joined a sorority when she was there and uh, they thought it was one of the things to do (AB: Mmm hmm) And, and uh, see, and Roscoe had joined the fraternity; in fact, Roscoe was President of the Student Council his senior year. And uh, this was just part of us, of, uh, college life (AB: Mmm hmm, RW-N: Uh-huh) and uh, so that was, uh, that was why. They'd be disappointed if I hadn't gone. I mean that she would, Elaine would have.

AB: Uh, did she help you financially through that cause it's kind of expensive?

WH: Well, I would say that she helped me in a way that if it hadn't been for her I, the -- I wore her clothes all the time, you know. [chuckles] And I sort of helped myself. I, I did. I could curl hair and I used to do little things that, you know, on my own, to get money. And then my, I, uh,

Roscoe was the one that did most, paid my, my tuition and things like that, my brother, Roscoe.
(AB: Mmm hmm) But she helped, helped, you know, with -- make sure that I had decent clothes and looked nice and all that sort of stuff.

AB: Uh-huh. Were all of your brothers and sisters high school graduates?

WH: The oldest one wasn't. He was about 8th grade when he, when he, uh, stopped.

AB: Uh, what made you decide to go to college?

WH: There wasn't anything else to do, I mean, I mean if you wanted to have some sort of life, you know, because I didn't see anything, I didn't want to work for. . . I think I got 5 dollars that week I worked.

AB: [chuckles] The week you worked for the woman in. . . uh-huh.

WH: I didn't want that. (AB: Uh-huh) No way. And I hadn't been accustomed to it. The people that, that my parents were, [inaudible words] my parents, uh, were around the, that was schooling and church was it. (AB: Mmm hmm) I mean, as I look back I say, "Well we, they had a lot of nice acquaintances be, now Ahmed Williams, he was the -- he was our cousin. (AB: Mmm hmm) He was always with us; even in Ohio, he visited. (AB: Mmm hmm) St. Albans, he gave the girls, uh, music lessons (AB: Mmm hmm) and, you know, and all through his life. I mean we had good, we had good associates (AB: Mmm hmm) and that's what was expected of you.

AB: Your parents encouraged you to. . .

WH: To, to go to school.

AB: Did one, your mother or father encourage you more, one more than the other?

WH: Oh, [inaudible], I can't, can't recall that because like I said, when she, when he was working here, she was in, she was uh, taking care of the family, I mean, mainly. (AB: Mmm hmm) So. . .

AB: Out of the 10 children, Elaine, Willie, and Roscoe went to college.

WH: And Elbert.

AB: And Elbert.

WH: And Lacona. (AB: And Lacona . . .) She didn't, uh, uh-huh, she didn't -- she went on she went to her senior year. She wasn't too well. (AB: Mmm hmm) And uh, mmm hmm. And Marvin and Ivy started. They had other. . . Ivy was uh, had other interests. And uh, she ended up going to uh, to Washington to work. (AB: Mmm hmm) She did nicely. (AB: Mmm hmm) She did nicely for herself.

AB: That summer that you worked in Washington, where did you live?

WH: I lived with my sisters, uh, they had, they would -- had a place. Elaine, Alice Robinson, Ivy, (AB: Mmm) and uh, the lady that uh, we stayed with she had a daughter who was working with the government. And then a, a wom -- a lady from uh, she was from Texas, came to Washington. (AB: Mmm hmm) So we had a (AB: So a group of . . .) nice group there.

AB: Of girls -- lived together (WH: Yes) in a house or an apartment?

WH: In a house.

AB: In a house. And you took the bus or something to work each day?

WH: Yes, the street car [chuckles]..

AB: And how did that experience in Washington compare with your life in West Virginia? Did you. . . ?

WH: Oh, I liked it because there, like I said, there was more, more or less my own age group I could stay there and. . . And I met some of the students that -- you ran into different people that had been to West Virginia State. (AB: Mmm hmm) Things like that.

AB: When you, uh, began working in -- began to get a paycheck (WH: Mmm hmm) was your paycheck your own or did you need to share it with your family, with your parents, your father, and . . .

WH: Well, when I, uh, started to getting paycheck, I, uh, I paid room and board.

AB: Mmm hmm, [WH: Inaudible] but that's all?

WH: Mmm hmm. And of course, I was always wanting to do something at the house on my own. (AB: Mmm hmm) Mmm hmm. So I had to, but I wasn't responsible for that, but I did it.

AB: You didn't, did you have a responsibility to help the younger children go to school? I mean was that a family kind of responsibility?

WH: It sort of, yes, (AB: Uh-huh) mmm hmm.

AB: So you had Marvin and Ivy coming [WH: Inaudible.] along behind you.

WH: But you see things were changing then. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) So Marvin went to the Army and Ivy went to D.C. to work. (AB: Mmm hmm) (RW-N: Yes) And uh, he didn't.

AB: So you didn't really need to do much for them?

WH: No, no. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Why did you decide to, to be a teacher?

WH: That was about the only thing that uh, about the only thing around there that you could do, uh, other than work for people, (RW-N: And you planned...) domestic work. . .

RW-N: To probably come home to stay in West Virginia, to find work in West Virginia?

Mr. Hise: You get everything settled? [Mr. Hise arrived home and addressed his wife.]

WH: We're still at it [chuckles].

AB: So were there, were there teachers or so that you, -- or anybody in, in the neighborhood that

you particularly admired, uh, that encouraged you to be a teacher or made you want to be a teacher?

WH: Uh, well. . .

AB: Any role models or so?

WH: I would say that my sister was my role model. My uh, uh, my uh, brother-in-law, my brother, and, and, and the teachers that uh, they used to stay around us all the time, so I just, they did just what I wanted to do, (AB: Mmm hmm) I mean that was it.

AB: So you saw them in the neighborhood, uh, (WH: Yeah) and, and whatnot. Did you have a favorite teacher?

WH: Mmm, I'm trying to think. . . uh, Jane Shaw. And she didn't, she, she was a French teacher. (AB: Mmm hmm) Mmm hmm. But she, uh, she didn't, uh, teach very long there, but I just, uh. . . And then Inez Thomas was a, a good literature teacher and she, I think that I was one of her favorites. [chuckles]

AB: Why did you like those 2 teachers?

WH: I think their personality and the way that they treated me. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: So when did you know that you might be a teacher? I mean did you decide that just as you were getting ready to go to State or did you know that somewhat earlier?

WH: Umm. Well, I was inter-, I was, I was interested in, uh, see, I did a lot of sewing and things like that and I was interested in it. And that was the only way that I could see that I would get to be inter -- could accomplish what I wanted. Had I, had, had I, uh. . . And I, you would have had to go to college because most of the, uh -- like in designing and all that sort of stuff, you had to have a degree.

(RW-N: So, so. . .) If it was anything else I could have done maybe, maybe I wouldn't have ended up teaching so long, but that was [inaudible words]

RW-N: You mean in the areas that you cared about (WH: Mmm hmm) that, that interested you (WH: Yes) you saw that the path would, would easily lead to teaching (WH: Mmm hmm) and other paths were not particularly open with regard to those interests. (WH: Right) Is that right?

WH: Right, right, mmm hmm.

AB: Uh, if, if designing had been a possibility for you, do you think you might have gone into that as a career field?

WH: May -- uh, I don't believe, uh, I, the reason I say I don't believe it, I, my, uh, [chuckles] my art wasn't too well. (AB: Mmm hmm) (RW-N: Uh-huh) But I like that field. And I like, like for instance, I like the style shows, the styles and things like that. (AB: Mmm hmm) I'm, I'm still interested in that. (AB: Mmm hmm) (RW-N: Uh-huh) And I believe that, uh, when I -- like I say, when I went to Cornell and I found out a lot of the things about, uh, . . . I took a course in the arts of costume and personal appearance. (RW-N: Uh-huh) That was one of the courses that I took and another one -- I had charge of school lunch program when it wasn't really, it was cafeteria. I was in charge of that and I needed that work. (AB: Mmm hmm) I, I selected things that would help me with my work. (AB: Mmm hmm) And I, I liked that stuff. I like, I like. . . (AB: Mmm hmm) that..

RW-N: Do you still have those interests?

WH: Yes. [chuckles]

RW-N: Do you sew?

WH: Not now, my, my eyesight is, isn't. . .

RW-N: But you did for a long time?

WH: Mmm hmm.

RW-N: Mmm hmm.

AB: Did you just make your own clothes or did you sew for other people?

WH: I made my own. I sometimes, I did uh, I did uh, maybe repaired things for. . .

AB: Alterations or so?

WH: Yes, mmm hmm for other people, but uh, mainly my own because it saved me a lot. (AB:

Mmm hmm) I . . .

RW-N: Did you sew for your children?

WH: No, I didn't sew for them either. (RW-N: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) I was too busy.

(RW-N: Yes, yes, yes.) I had too many other things to do; it was better for them to. . .

AB: Now you were teaching at Aracoma, um, and you get married and you continue to teach at Aracoma. How long did you teach at Aracoma?

WH: Let's see, I started teaching in 19 and 40. I taught there until, till, till integration.

AB: Which would have been in the '60's somewhere?

WH: Mmm hmm and then I went to uh, to, to the junior high at Holden. (AB: What. . .) I taught home economics and science.

AB: And was that the name of that school, Holden Junior High School?

WH: Holden Junior High School.

AB: And what grades did you teach at Holden?

WH: 7th, 8th, and 9th.

AB: And you taught home ec and science (WH: Science.) In 7th, 8th and 9th.

RW-N: Now could we back up for a moment? What did you teach at Aracoma? The same subjects, right?

WH: The same, mostly home ec because I was a vocational teacher, uh, and uh, uh, after I taught home ec I was one of the, the uh, schools selected for uh, student teaching. I had, I did, I had several student teachers to come to me from West Virginia State.

AB: And where did they live?

WH: Uh, they lived at, on campus. But. . .

AB: They would travel up here?

WH: Uh, uh, they would, they would find places. Uh, one girl was from, was from Logan. But the others, they found places for them to stay. (AB: Uh-huh) (RW-N: Mmm hmm) I know one, one girl stayed with Ottrus, Dr. Elliot, Ottrus Chatman. (AB: Uh-huh) One girl stayed with her. (AB: Mmm hmm) You find nice, uh, places, suitable places for them to stay in.

AB: Now you were doing the vocational program at Aracoma (WH: Yes), but when you moved over to uh, Holden, you . . .

WH: I was just a regular teacher.

AB: You could not do the vocational (WH: Right, right) program, you were just a regular home ec (WH: Mmm-hmm) teacher.

WH: Because everything changed then (AB: Mmm-hmm) because I know, uh, uh, uh, they had, Virginia Thomas, Virginia Thomas was in charge of uh, she was a supervisor in charge of us at the state, on the state level. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And uh, Mrs. Jones, Maybelle Jones (AB: Mmm hmm) was, was over the student teaching (AB: Mmm hmm) and uh, -- directed teaching then as they call it so she used to come to. . . When, when they had, when I was over, when I had the

teacher she would come (AB: Mmm-hmm) and observe sometime.

AB: Did you, uh, since you had 4-H, did you, uh, ever go up to Clifftop?

WH: No, no, I, I, I, I, I, I was just a member. [chuckles] I was just a member of uh, 4-H when I was in junior high.

AB: Uh, but you never. . .

WH: Uh, when I was in high sch -- I don't, did they have Clifftop back then?

AB: They had Clifftop in the '40's so you probably, you would have been teaching but not. . .

[WH: inaudible] Alright, now you are over at, at Holden in the junior high school. How long were you there?

WH: Until they closed that school. Let me see. . . and see I, I, I retired in uh '78 (AB: Mmm hmm) so I was there about, um, about 8 years.

AB: About 8 years. And where did you go from Holden?

WH: To Logan Junior High.

AB: To Logan Junior High. And what did you teach in Logan Junior High?

WH: Science, science, and see that's. . .

AB: You did not teach home ec at all?

WH: No, no.

AB: Just science?

WH: Just science.

AB: And you stayed at Logan Junior High School until you retired?

WH: Mmm hmm.

AB: And you had a total of about 38 years teaching?

WH: Yes, uh-huh, right on. . . 38 really, I think I, I think I, yes, up to. . .

AB: There would have been time out in there somewhere when your children were born and whatnot.

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: Uh, when you went to Holden to teach -- this is your 1st time teaching in an integrated situation? (WH: Mmm hmm) How did you find that?

WH: I didn't find it any, hardly any different, [chuckles] you know? When you, when you walk in there's this -- I didn't find it too different.

RW-N: How many of your students were black and white? What were, about what was the breakdown there?

WH: I guess it was about a fourth, mmm hmm, about a fourth of my students. . .

AB: Were black?

WH: Mmm hmm.

AB: How were you treated by the, the school personnel when you went to Holden? How did your principal respond to you?

WH: He -- alright. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) I didn't, I didn't have any difficult^y at all.

RW-N: You had a white principal?

WH: Yes, mm -hmm.

RW-N: And were there other black teachers that went to Holden?

WH: Yes, Knute Burroughs, Knute Burroughs and I were the ones chosen for Holden Junior High. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Do you know how you were chosen to go to Holden and how that process worked?

WH: Well, I tell you, I lived at Holden at the time and I didn't want to start running all across the county (RW-N: Mmm hmm) so uh, I sort of talked to some friends and [chuckles] people I knew.

AB: So you wanted to go to Holden? (WH: Yes) I mean. . .

WH: I mean I wanted to be in that vicinity, vicinity, yes, uh-huh. (AB: Mmm hmm) If I had to go anyplace I didn't want to go up to Man. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) I wanted to stay as close to home as I could (RW-N: Right) (AB: Mmm hmm) So that, that might have been . . .

RW-N: So you were content with that decision; in fact, you wanted that decision?

WH: Yes, mmm hmm. Cause I don't believe, uh, the uh, all the places in, in the integrated school, they were taken, you know; you don't, you don't do that (AB: Mmm-hmm) as far as home economics is concerned.

AB: There probably weren't too many job opportunities (WH: Right, right, right, um hmm.) Uh, what about -- so, uh, the principal and the other teachers, the white teachers received you well?

WH: I had no problem.

AB: Mmm hmm, what about with the students? Did you have any problems?

WH: Not, not, not really, to think, you know, anything big or something like that.

AB: But there were some small ones?

WH: That's -- may have been.

AB: Do you remember any of that?

WH: I really, I really don't. (AB: Mmm-hmm) I tell you, I really don't.

AB: And with the parents, uh, the white parents, everything was, it worked alright?

WH: Well, they would come to -- they would come to see you. I mean they had the parent-teachers, they'd come to see and they'd talk, but I, I didn't have any, any people that really were,

was against, uh, . . . They knew integration was here and I -- to tell you the truth, I thought a lot of them liked the uh, the black teachers. They were well qualified (AB: Mmm-hmm) and uh, then -- you know, I don't think I had -- I didn't have any problem with the, (AB: Yeah) with the integrated situation.

AB: And, uh, the other, what happened down at Aracoma? Did they close Aracoma at that point or did they turn it into another school or what? The building and whatnot?

WH: It became the uh, community college.

AB: It became a part of the community college.

WH: Mmm hmm. (AB: Uh-huh) Because I had, I had, I had, they had built on to the, to Aracoma High School and I had a new, I had a nice, new home economics department and new equipment and all like that. I hated to leave that (AB & RW-N: Mmm hmm) but still if they were closing the school that. . .

RW-N: Now Aracoma was quite large, wasn't it? In terms of number of students?

WH: Um -- at one time. We, uh, uh -- at one time, see it didn't close right at the, at integration. It didn't close and the numbers got smaller because the students were going to integrated schools in their own community. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: They drifted off (WH: Yes) in a slower process.

WH: Mmm hmm.

AB: And they had begun that drift-off before you left the school?

WH: That's right. Mmm hmm, mmm hmm.

AB: Mmm-hmm. And so the year that you left Aracoma, then it ceased totally (WH: To be. . .) of being a school? (WH: Right) A high school? (WH: Mmm-hmm) And all of the students and all

of the teachers were transferred elsewhere? (WH: Right) Uh-huh.

WH: And see my husband's school -- they had transferred them earlier. Buffalo closed before, before, um, Aracoma High School, so some of their teachers came to us. (AB: Mmm hmm) And some had found other jobs at other places.

AB: Mmm hmm. Uh, I don't remember what year they integrated up here, but it was in the '60's somewhere, wasn't it? (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) So integration had been under way for about 6 years perhaps in other parts of the state (WH: Mmm hmm, right) when it finally took place here in Logan County. What about the, uh, teachers' organization and P.T.A. s and things like that? Were you active in, uh, in any of those kinds of things?

WH: Yes, uh, uh -- now I was-- wasn't uh, I was not uh, uh, I had to belong, you know. (AB: Mmm hmm) But I, I didn't hold any office or anything.

AB: Mmm hmm. Uh, were you a member of the state teachers' organization when it was the black organization?

WH: Oh, yes, uh-huh.

AB: And you attended meetings and whatnot?

WH: Yes, a lunch meeting was in Huntington that I attended. (AB: Mmm hmm) Mmm hmm.

AB: And then after integration, did you become a member of the WVEA? (WH: Right, right) And did you go to WVEA meetings? (WH: Yes) And there was a, what a, there was a round table, McDowell-Mercer or so roundtable. Were you all involved over in this county at all?

WH: I don't, I don't (AB: In that?), no. (AB: Mmm hmm) [noise]

RW-N: Okay, you set?

AB: Mmm hmm, uh, Mrs. Hise, if we could go back and, and talk about your family a little bit,

uh, between your mother and father, who was the disciplinarian in the family?

WH: My father.

AB: Your father (WH: Mmm hmm) was.

RW-N: Can you tell us, um, if you, as you look back on it, what were some of the characteristics of your father that you liked the best?

WH: Mmm. . . Well, uh, he, uh, certainly looked after us. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) He, uh. . .

RW-N: He was dependable.

WH: Yes, mmm hmm. And uh, . . .

AB: Were you frightened of him?

WH: Uh, sometimes, but not, I mean, uh, no. He wasn't, he wasn't really a, you know, that type. But uh -- especially, you know, he, he was just a disciplinarian and uh, he was a nice person. He was well liked in the community though. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm)

AB: Was he active in community activities, uh, at all?

WH: Well, he was a, he's -- attended the church in the communities and uh, I don't think, I don't think he had too much time in school things. He was active in the P.T.A. and things like that. He always attended those, but other than that, that was it.

RW-N: Uh-huh, so he, he really keep, he really kept track of how his kids were doing. (WH: Yes Uh-huh), Uh-huh. So he worked to earn a living and he spent a lot of time, and he put a good amount of effort into his family. (WH: Yes, mmm hmm) Is that right?

WH: That's right.

RW-N: Did, did he, um, was he a serious fellow or did he laugh a lot? And was he warm and affectionate or did you know he loved you because he cared for you in other ways?

WH: Mmm. . . well. . . [chuckles] I, I don't think I can answer that one, you know, because, uh. . . He liked us, he liked us. He didn't want any harm to come to us for sure.

AB: Mmm hmm. He was a hard-working man. (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) And uh, spent most of his time right there with his family (WH: Mmm hmm, yes) not, uh, at, or in church, not out doing other things or so.

WH: Right, mmm hmm.

RW-N: Now can you tell us a little bit more about your mother? I, I know that you lost her when you were quite young yourself. (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) Your memories of her, um, what do you remember the most about her?

WH: Mmm-hmm. Mmm [chuckles]

RW-N: Did she sort of let your father, um, set the rules? Was she kind of in the background about that? (WH: Yes) Now there were times when your father. . .

WH: Most of the time he was away.

RW-N: He was away, right. So what did that mean for her?

WH: It meant that she took over. [chuckles] (RW-N: Uh-huh) And she did alright, she was, she was, she was okay. I liked her, my mother. She was, she was a likeable person, too.

RW-N: How so?

WH: In -- because other kids liked her too.

RW-N: Other kids liked her?

WH: Uh-huh, they did, uh-huh.

RW-N: Do you think that was because, um, why was that?

WH: Well, I, I imagine it because she had, was accustomed to children, knew how to treat them

(RW-N: Uh-huh, uh-huh) things like that and. . .

AB: Was she easy going?

WH: Yes.

AB: Was she a hugger?

WH: I don't remember all the hugs. [chuckles] (RW-N: Uh-huh)

AB: Was your father a hugger?

WH: No. . . [inaudible]

AB: Do you remember your father as being stern?

WH: Oh, sure, mmm hmm. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: And your mother?

WH: Well she, uh, well she could take a, she. . .

RW-N: She could be stern, huh?

WH: Mmm hmm, yes, she. . .

AB: Um, did, when, when decisions had to be made for the family, how were they, of course you were young (WH: Mmm hmm) so you may not remember, uh, do you know how they were made? I mean if you had to buy a piece of furniture or if you had, if they were going to buy a piece of property or move or so, how did decisions -- were decisions (WH: I don't know.) like that made?

WH: I don't know. I don't ...

AB: You don't remember those. [WH: inaudible] Uh-huh.

RW-N: I want to ask you a question that is sometimes hard to answer. When you look at yourself as a person, uh, do you see certain things that you think you got more from your mother

or more from your father?

WH: My mother.

RW-N: You got a lot from your mother?

WH: Yes, yes.

RW-N: And what would those things be?

WH: Well, she was sort of quiet and (RW-N: Uh-huh) reticent, like I am [chuckles] cause they always tell me that I, I, uh, I'm very much like her.

AB: Were there other members of your family who were outgoing and, and joke-telling and, and whatnot?

WH: Mmm hmm. My brothers.

AB: Your brothers were. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) All the girls were quiet?

WH: Uh. . . When my -- not like me, not as quiet as I am, you know, not as reticent. But they weren't too, they weren't -- uh, [inaudible word] (RW-N: Uh-huh) They were normal, just about normal.

RW-N: Who do you think shaped your values -- the things that you believe in and things that you think are good and bad? Did that come more from your mother or your father or both?

WH: Came from both.

RW-N: Uh-huh.

WH: Came from both.

RW-N: And, and you think they were pretty much agreement on those things (WH: Yes. Mmm hmm.) to the, to the degree that you remember?

WH: Mmm hmm.

RW-N: Uh-huh.

AB: Now your mother passed when you were 13 you said. Um, was she ill a long time before that?

WH: Mmm, she was uh, . . . yes. Um, I, I don't know just exactly. I guess she was some.

AB: Did you help take care of her?

WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm.

AB: And how did the family, the family manage after her death?

WH: Well, you see uh, Roscoe was home most of the time. He was home. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

Roscoe was home, uh, my, my oldest brother lived right straight across in front of us. (RW-N: Mmm hmm)

AB: And he was married by that time?

WH: Mmm hmm. (AB: Mmm hmm) And, and so we were well, well look -- we were looked after (AB: Mmm hmm) and uh. . . Like I said, when I was in, uh, uh, when I was in college, he, he stayed at home. He never -- until he got married, you know.

AB: This is Roscoe?

WH: Mmm hmm. (AB: Mmm hmm) And Orlando was right close. (AB: Mmm hmm)

AB: Uh, Roscoe then finished West Virginia State College and went away and went to medical school later?

WH: No, oh yes, uh, oh, much later, after he married, (AB: Uh-huh, uh-huh) much later. Mmm hmm.

RW-N: We talked a little, uh, before we went on tape about your children, but we have nothing on tape about them. Would you tell us the names of your children and when they were born and

the, the education, what they're doing now, and if you have grandchildren?

WH: Mmm hmm. Well, um, Michael was born in '48, August of '48. And uh, see, he went to, uh, he went, he finished up, up at Holden Dunbar, that was a, wasn't an integrated school then. . .

(AB: Mmm hmm) He finished there.

AB: That's junior high school?

WH: That was grade school.

AB: Grade school, Holden Dunbar.

WH: Uh-huh. And he went to uh, he went to uh, the 8th he was -- the 7th grade I believe at Aracoma High. And then they integrated the schools and he went to uh, Logan East Junior High. That's where from 8th and 9th grade, he, he finished East and then he went to Logan High School. And uh, he was in, Michael was, um. . . He was a member of the Honor Society, the -- the band, and uh, of course he loved football, but he couldn't play. He was too, he wasn't -- he was too small. [chuckles] (RW-N: Uh-huh) And uh, [cough] so uh, that's about. . . Then he went from there to West Virginia U. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) and uh, he finished there, let's see, he finished there in 1970 I believe because I had uh, and Steve finished, uh, finished, uh, high school in the same year (AB: Mmm-hmm) 1970. So, and then after, after Michael finished, uh, West Virginia U. he went to the University of Michigan for his medical degree. He was, he was supposed to go to the Army cause, you know, he was in the R.O.T.C. (AB: Mmm hmm) He was in R.O.T.C. and they deferred it because he was in medi -- in medicine, he was going to take medicine. Cause I remember that day when he got -- they sent him, "Congratulations, now you are to report to Fort Sam Houston, Texas." [laughter] But uh, and then. . .

RW-N: And you said he's now at the University of Maryland, Medical School?

WH: In, uh. (RW-N: Uh.) . He's, he's affiliated with them, I guess. Yes, yes.

RW-N: Uh, in Baltimore.

WH: Mmm hmm.

RW-N: And he's married with children?

WH: Yes, he has the 2, a girl and a boy. The girl was at, attends, um, uh, University of Virginia.

And the boy's a senior at the school. I don't know, but they're in Columbia, Maryland.

AB: This -- in high school?

WH: In high school.

AB: And that's where he lives, in Columbia?

WH: Yes.

AB: Mmm hmm, and uh, your second son went to West Virginia University also (WH: Yes) and graduated. . . ?

WH: Uh, 19, I think it was seventy. . . When did Steve finish?

AB: About '74 or so?

WH: Somewhere in there. (AB: Mmm hmm.)

RW-N: Something like that.

WH: And then he, he uh, he went to work for uh, Westinghouse and he worked with. . . And

while he was at Westinghouse, he was working, he went to uh, . . . He would travel around

different places and when he was in Dayton, he, uh, he went, he took, uh, courses at the

University of Dayton. (AB: Mmm hmm) So he has an M.B.A. (RW-N: Oh, mmm hmm)

AB: Mmm hmm. Did you think of sending your boys back to West Virginia State since both you and your husband had gone to West Virginia State? Did that ever. . . ?

WH: Did that ever occur to you? [WH addresses question to husband, Kesler Hise.]

[chuckles] Our boys, to go to West Virginia State?

KH: [Kesler Hise, Willie Hise's husband] Do what?

WH: The boys, to go to West Virginia State. I don't think so because they found out that things were changing (AB: Uh-huh) and they didn't...

AB: And so. . . And they didn't have any problems when they went to West Virginia University as you remember it? They adjusted well?

WH: They did, they did okay, didn't they [addresses question to husband]?

KH: Do what?

WH: Mike and Steve adjusted to West Virginia University. There's quite a few, uh, students up there. I think Michael was in the Black, uh. . .

AB: Student Organization.

WH: . . . Student Organization.

AB: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm. Yeah, I remember those years.

WH: Uh-huh.

RW-N: And let's see, does Michael, is Michael married with children or does he. . . ? Do you have grandchildren?

WH: Just one, yes, yes.

RW-N: No, I'm sorry, Steven, I meant.

WH: Yes and. . .

RW-N: Yes.

WH: He has 2 girls.

RW-N: So you have 4 grandchildren, (WH: Mmm hmm) is that right? Uh-huh?

WH: Mmm hmm.

AB: Well, I think. .

END OF TAPE 1 - SIDE 2

BEGINNING OF TAPE 2 - SIDE 1

RW-N: Today is October 8th, 1999. Ancella Bickley and Rita Wicks-Nelson are at the home of Mrs. Hise. This is our 2nd ^{interview} with Mrs. Hise.

AB: Alright. Mrs. Hise, um, when we were here last time, you were telling us that you had become a Catholic when you were a young woman.

WH: Yes.

AB: And, uh, I'm interested because there was a Catholic, a black Catholic church in Huntington, St. Peter Claver, (WH: Mmm hmm) along with a Catholic school down there for black kids that existed, uh, I guess from the 30's on. (WH: Really?) And, um, you don't see a great many black Catholics so I was curious about where you went to church here in, in Logan County. It must have been with a white congregation. Was that true?

WH: Right, right, mmm hmm.

AB: And how were you received with that congregation?

WH: Fine, fine. Because, uh, uh, the father that came, uh, to Logan at that time was, had been at West Virginia University. What do you call them? When they're at the univers. . . .

AB: Chaplain?

WH: Chaplain (AB: Mmm hmm) at West Virginia University. And uh, he came here, of course, you know Island Creek was just about, uh, uh, it was very prominent in this county. And uh,

most of the uh, . . . the head of Island Creek was Catholic.

AB: That's Island Creek Coal Company?

WH: Mmm hmm. So uh, he's had a lovely Catholic hour he put on. And uh, uh Emma Carter, Barnes Carter, she's from Charleston but she taught here and was taking, uh, she was going for instructions and at that particular time I had lost my sister. And uh, she was telling me to come and go with her. That's the reason, uh, that's why I became Catholic. I was searching for, for consolance or something.

RW-N: Were there very many black members of that church at the time?

WH: No, just, just uh, one lady from. . . uh, that was a teacher. Uh, I think she was formerly, she had been, she wasn't here all the time. I know she went to Cleveland, but she wasn't a practicing Catholic. Uh, Elizabeth White, because, uh, he mentioned her. Uh, she uh, she pract -- she wasn't a practicing Catholic. She went to the, to the, uh, the, the black church there, the Methodist church.

AB: What was the name of the church that you attended?

WH: Saint Mary's.

AB: And do you still attend that same church?

WH: Well, it's, uh, uh, joined with uh, . . . They, they uh, integrated the church -- St. Mary's and the church, the Catholic church in Logan and gave it another name. St. Francis of Assisi is where I go now. (AB: Mmm-hmm) That's right in Logan.

AB: What about your boys? Were they reared as Catholics?

WH: No, Michael was, uh, was baptized. I mean -- but uh, Kesler was a reluctant person because his, his parents, uh, was, they came from uh, a big North Carolina. . . They were Presbyterians,

went to a Presbyterian church. And uh, there was just a friction there. You know, it just didn't, uh, . . . So I didn't push it. I didn't push it. I just, when I did -- when I could go, I went and when I could not go, I put my children 1st because my family [chuckles] was sort of surprised also so I just let left it like that.

AB: You said your husband's family was Presbyterian. Uh, they migrated here to Logan County (WH: Right, right) and were they able to continue as Presbyterians here in Logan County?

WH: I don't know whether they tried even or not because uh, they, they lived over near Sharples in Boone County, near Boone County, the, the fringes of uh, Logan County. So uh, they had uh, in fact, uh, his family, was a family of 8 and uh, his sister, his oldest sister I think taught him in 1st grade or something like that. So they had church and school. So they never, never really got out and tried. (AB: Mmm hmm)

AB: Um, you, did you and your husband know each other when you were growing up?

WH: I'm, I knew him, uh, I knew of hi -- I knew him in high school, (AB: Mmm hmm) you see. He was a, but he was upper class person. I never had much to do with him. But I, but after, after, uh, I finished college and came back to teach, he was teaching there. (AB: Mmm hmm)

AB: That was at Aracoma?

WH: Yes.

AB: Uh-huh.

RW-N: I had, could I go back to, uh, your choosing to go to another church? Uh, I'd like to ask you a little bit more about that because I've made some, some changes like that in my life, too (WH: Mmm hmm) and I know sometimes that they can be, uh, difficult changes. (WH: Sure) And I, I have always thought that, that sometimes it often takes courage to do those things. Now

you're shaking your head "yes." (WH: Right) Do you relate to that idea of . . . ?

WH: I do.

RW-N: Can you tell us anything about that, anything you're willing (WH: Mmm-hmm) to share about that?

WH: Uh, well, he, see, he wanted, he said, -- well, he didn't want his children -- although he, he, he uh, accepted it.

RW-N: This is your father now? [overlapping voices] (WH: No, my husband, Kesler.) Now this is Kesler. Oh, oh, you're talking about your children, (WH: My children) yes.

WH: Well, you're talking about. . . . Were you talking about you, were you thinking about my father?

RW-N: Well, I was thinking about that whole process of, of how you (WH: Yes, uh-huh, he passed away.) came -- and if it took much courage for you to make that decision even with regard to your siblings?

AB: To become a Catholic. . .

RW-N: To become a Catholic.

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: . . . in a Protestant family?

WH: Right, um. . .

RW-N: But your parents had both passed, right?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

RW-N: So, so that wasn't an issue with them obviously.

WH: No, but still my brothers and sisters weren't too pleased, but I, I told them, I said this, I

said, "Well, it's better for me," I said, "I look at it like this, I've got to learn, I've . . .," something about I wanted to be, be uh, a Christian person and I want to attend some church and uh, . . .

RW-N: Had you not been attending the Baptist church before that?

WH: Not really, only at times because I was usually a at-home person, [chuckles] you know.

And on the weekends especially when I got started to uh, . . .

KH: I don't believe I have my car keys. [Mr. Hice, in the background, speaking to WH.]

WH: [Chuckles]. . . started to teach; in fact, to me my weekends are so busy I didn't get to go.

(AB: Mmm hmm) And uh, he, he started taking the children to uh, the church at Holden, but then he finally . . . that didn't last too long so . . . I, I left it to, to them whenever they grew up to be whatever they wanted. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) (AB: Mmm hmm) [KH: Inaudible words] Oh, you can't find the keys? [To husband] [tape stopped]

RW-N: . . . think there was about the Catholic church that was satisfying to you in those days?

WH: Well, in -- instructions really and uh, the uh -- that was the main thing. And then I think it served my purpose because, uh, you, you could go and uh, whatever problems that you had, you, I, you . . . I didn't go just pouring out my guts [chuckles] (RW-N: Yeah) so to speak. But it, it really served a purpose for me.

RW-N: Strong enough to keep you with the Catholic church all these years?

WH: Yes, right, mmm hmm.

AB: And your husband began to go to church with you after a time?

WH: And uh, in '85, he took his First Communion.

AB: Oh, is that right? So he converted (WH: Yes) then.

RW-N: Oh, I see.

AB: Uh-huh. We were looking at the pictures while we were sitting here of the babies here. Uh, I'm looking at a buffet in her house with the pictures of 2 children, lovely children. Are those your grandchildren?

WH: That's Steve's family. Let's see, Steve and his wife (AB: Uh-huh) and that's their children and, and. . .

AB: They're really pretty children. (WH: That, uh. . .)

RW-N: Could we ask you to talk a little bit more about your teaching? Uh, perhaps we need to figure out these schools. Are we confused about that? Um, sometimes we get confused (WH: Mmm hmm) about schools and I don't know if, whether that's. . . Let me go over that quickly. That might be the best way to do that. Uh, your 1st job was at Aracoma High School and you were teaching home ec vocational?

WH: Yes uh, not at 1st.

RW-N: Not at 1st?

WH: At 1st, but they, it became a vocational school, mmm hmm.

RW-N: Yes.

AB: What was the vocational home ec? I'm not quite sure what that was.

WH: Well, it's a, it's funded by the federal government. And, see uh, what I was teaching was general home economics that the state, that the county provided the home economics teachers.

AB: So when the federal government's funding was involved there were certain kinds of things you had to. . .

WH: Had to do.

AB: . . . had to teach.

WH: They, uh, had their units and everything planned. And uh, you were supposed to teach a 9th and 10th grade mainly, the 9th and 10th grade. They didn't go from 7th and 8th like they have in the junior high schools. But uh, uh, when, when it went into the vocational part of it, I had to have uh, 9th graders in the 10th grade class. The 10th grade class is usually small, (AB: Mmm hmm) which, in other words, they, they, you, you weren't supposed to have but 20 pupils in those classes (RW-N: Uh-huh, mmm hmm) at that time, but I had a nice, uh, 9th grade class, 9th grade girls. And 7th and 8th grade home economics was about, about the same. Uh, . . .

RW-N: Now when you moved to, um, to Holden Junior High, uh, you went into (WH: General) regular home ec and taught science. (WH: Yes) Is that right? (WH: Uh -huh) And how, and when did that happen? Do you remember?

WH: Now -- isn't that something?

RW-N: Well, it's understandable for you not to have dates (WH: Mmm hmm, inaudible), what I really wanted to check was that, was it into the 1960's do you think (WH: Yes, it was.) that you think that you made that -- or just about. . . ?

WH: Just about there, (RW-N: Mmm hmm) mmm hmm. (RW-N: Okay) '59 or '60.

RW-N: '59 or '60, probably. So if anything, it would be in the early '60's? (WH: Yes, yes) Yes. And then you went into Holden Junior High which was an integrated school? (WH: Yes) And you stayed there about 8 years and then went to Logan Junior (WH: Logan Junior) and you retired from Logan Junior (WH: Right) and you said it was a total of 38 years that you taught minus, what? . . . The year and a half that you took off after (WH: Right, mmm hmm) the babies were born? Okay.

AB: During this time, uh, Mrs. Hise, what about your husband? He was at Aracoma when you

were there teaching (WH: Mmm hmm) when you 1st went there. How did his career progress?

WH: Fine. Uh, uh, he went to the, uh, of course, he would, he, he, he went to the Army in World War II. He was. . .

AB: So he was teaching at Aracoma. He left Aracoma, went into the Army, (WH: Mmm hmm) and came back to Aracoma.

WH: Yes, and he only stayed a semester because, uh, he had been informed that uh, the principal at uh, Buffalo High School was leaving. They, he had thought of, thought in terms of leaving and that they had no one to, in the county, uh, that had the master's. (AB: Mmm hmm) So he took leave that, that year and went to the University of Pittsburgh and uh, that was a, so that's, he was up there for a sem -- semester and summer.

AB: Uh, finishing his master's and (WH: Yes) and preparing himself for, for administrative work. (WH: Yes) So then he came back and it, I guess the principalship did become vacant? (WH: Right) And he applied for, (WH: Yes) uh, the job at Buffalo?

WH: Uh-huh, he never came back to Aracoma.

AB: And he never came back to Aracoma. And. . .

RW-N: Did he finish his career at Buffalo High School?

WH: No. Uh, during integration, when they started integrating the schools, um, Buffalo High School went 1st. And uh, they uh, they integrated the teachers at Buffalo High School. So some came to Aracoma High School because some teachers were leaving Aracoma High School finding other jobs, getting away from here, you see. So uh, some of the teachers up there came to Aracoma High School and uh, Kesler went to Logan Central Junior High as a teacher, a math teacher. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And they wanted to know why he did that, he says, "I'm a teacher."

He says, "I know I can teach." [chuckles] He says, "I'm not leaving."

AB: Mmm hmm. And so he, then he completed his, uh, his career as a teacher of math?

WH: No. He did not complete it then. Uh, he, uh, he went, what, uh, he went to Logan Junior High as a vice-principal. And uh, then there into the uh, uh, he was math supervisor when he finished at Logan County, (AB: Mmm hmm) math supervisor, he went to all schools.

(AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Now do I understand this correctly? Where, when he was principal at Buffalo High School, (WH: Yes) that was a black school?

WH: Yes, it was.

RW-N: And that, the teachers then had to scatter from that school? Did they close that school?

WH: Yes, they did.

RW-N: And, and so he went then from other school. . . ?

WH: From, from being principal to a teacher, (RW-N: Mmm hmm) a junior high school teacher. (RW-N: Mmm hmm, right) And then back -- to Logan Senior High School (AB: So you all never...) as vice-principal.

AB: ...never really, never really thought about leaving Logan County to take up residence any place else?

WH: No, not, not really. (AB: Mmm hmm) Cause I guess he was well established here and I had a job [chuckles] so we could, I said, I said, "Well, I wasn't, I wasn't the adventurous type." So uh, I said, "Well, if, if he's progressing like he wanted to. . ." And uh, when I, when I looked at our uh, the, I shouldn't say this, but I should, too, because it's important. Uh, about the time that I was getting ready to uh, when I retired from the junior high school, East Junior High, there was

a difference in the students that we were getting. It -- you find a difference in them, in the students. And I said, "Well, [chuckles] it's about time to go."

AB: When you say difference, you mean for the better or for the worse?

WH: For the worst.

AB: For the worst,

WH: For the worst. I mean it wasn't just a, it wasn't a, it didn't have anything to do with integration, (AB: Mmm hmm) but it was all of the students. They, they didn't feel that uh, that they uh, needed to uh, do what they, what you told them to do. And it just was -- the things that we had, I had been accustomed to doing and saying -- it just, it just didn't click, you know. So I said, "Well," I looked at my uh, my uh, salary and I looked at uh, the little amount that, that I had to pay in taxes from together. And I said, "Well, look here." The kids, they have, they, they had both finished college. They were on their own and I said, "What am I doing here?" [chuckles] So that's why I retired.

AB: What do you think caused the, uh, the shift in, in students? We've heard this from other teachers who, who seemed to indicate that young people did change. (WH: Mmm hmm) Do you have any idea what contributed to that change?

WH: I, I rea -- I don't know exactly because as I mentioned, we got along well when I was at uh, uh at Holden. I got a, I've got along well there because I wasn't taking anything, you know, cause I was just, you know, I didn't let them get to me. But I thought it was time to go. And I don't know why, what, what caused it, because I remember, I . . . I don't know. I shouldn't say that. You got your phone on?

AB: You want us to turn it off?

RW-N: So you were saying that, uh, that the students had changed, that they didn't want to listen to teachers anymore so there was some discipline problems. (WH: Yes) Do you see anything else that was happening that was, um, that did not work in favor of the students? For example, was, had it become more of a problem for kids to get their homework done, to take school seriously? (WH: Right) Was that somewhat of a problem? (WH: That, that's right, mmm hmm) Was there a problem of respect for teachers? And again, I don't want to put those words into your mouth, I'm just asking about that.

WH: And then I found, too, that, [chuckles] uh, some of the teachers, uh, they were, they, they, there was a difference in between uh, uh, the way that the teachers, uh, and students got along. Some, some were, some were very friendly and, and I thought too intimate. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And I hadn't been that way, not, not any. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And I guess if they couldn't, if, and then some of the students, if they couldn't have their ways, I, that was it.

AB: I, I wonder if there was a difference between the way black teachers were accustomed to working and relating to one another and to students and, in the integrated schools. For example, I, I noticed that the black teachers that I knew dressed more formally. (WH: Right, mmm hmm) I never saw a black teacher come into the classroom with blue jeans on. (WH: Right) And I never saw a black teacher invite students to call them by their 1st names.

WH: Now, that's, that's what I said, what I was saying. That's just what I meant in so many words (AB: Mmm hmm) that they uh, it was a difference there.

RW-N: Now did you notice this at, in Holden when, cause that was the 1st integrated school?

WH: No, no I didn't.

RW-N: You didn't notice it there? So something had also changed historically?

WH: Right.

RW-N: The passage of time? But I am curious to know whether, uh, as you look back on the integration of schools, what you see as the advantages and disadvantages perhaps for black students?

WH: Well, I, I didn't, there's not too many of them here now and so their families have left the... I think maybe one, one thing is that uh, there's no work here. [inaudible words] And they -- and so the coal industry's faltering and uh, they have to leave and go out elsewhere to find jobs. A lot of the children are staying with grandparents, you know, that, that are here, the few that's here. And uh, they, they are, unless, you see less than uh, just a few of them in activities because, I don't think it's because -- there's not too many of them in schools anymore and uh, ... in the schools.

RW-N: If you think back on the days when you 1st went to Holden, I think you told us maybe about a quarter of your students were black (WH: Right, right) if I recall correctly. Um, when you were in the process of making that change and you think back to those days, what did, what did the black kids get out of that that was positive, if anything? And also I'd like to know what they got out of it that was negative? Was it good for them to get going to the integrated schools or not?

WH: Well, I think in a way it was better for them. It was going to happen sooner or later. It was going to happen because I don't think the county could afford to have a 2 school system. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) It was going to happen and, uh, they, uh, maybe they did feel a little left out, but in a way, they were not left out because a lot of those kids were good athletes, you see, a lot of them -- uh, most of the, most of the boys that, uh, were at Aracoma High School in, in the 7th and

8th grades made the varsities, and things like that. And that was a big part of the school. Now the grades, it was, it was -- they were very strict about getting them into the honor societies, into the honor society. Uh, and I'd, I -- sometimes I'd have to caution some of them about keeping their average up. You can't, you don't smart off at people, [chuckles] you know, and, and expect that to not show up when you're getting ready to go in honor society and things of that sort. They had to -- so maybe that did have something to do, do with it.

AB: Did they, the black kids participate in things such as band and (WH: Oh, yes.) cheerleaders, dramatic performances, things like that?

WH: Yes, they participated in the band, mmm hmm.

RW-N: We have talked to some of the women and they have thought that, oh, that the black kids lost out because they simply found no place to, in roles of leadership or participation. I'm wondering though, perhaps it matters how many black students are in the schools. If you have a good number (WH: Mmm-hmm) in the school that perhaps is more opportunity.

WH: I think that, that, that, that, that's, might be, be it. And uh, when you're in the, in the integrated schools, you know, you have, you have, uh, people, business people, the uh, the wealthy so to speak and all that, and, and those kids are going, you give, you do, you don't compete in a way is. . . Maybe I think someone may have felt that they, they uh, might have been left out like that, but, and I think in all the schools they had uh, classes, uh, that they uh, they put you in sections according to your rank and then too many of them didn't make that rank.

RW-N: You're talking about academic ranking?

WH: Yes, (RW-N: Mm -hmm) yes. They, they uh, they uh. . .

RW-N: And they wouldn't, they cou -- they cou -- they then would not keep up on that level?

WH: That they couldn't, some of them didn't keep up, but I, uh, personally thought that the -- in my classes at the junior high level, uh, at Holden there was only one 8th grade science class, you see. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) And I taught it and so they were all there. [chuckles] (RW-N: Mmm hmm) So I, I could. . .that --

RW-N: When you went into the integrated schools did you find that you had more equipment to work with or supplies or was that different in any way?

WH: Less.

RW-N: You had less?

WH: I had less, see, because I, I left, uh, a fine vocational set-up and went back to the general. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) They didn't have and especially in home economics and uh, well it's the same. Those schools were old, surprisingly old and unkept.

AB: These were the integrated schools (WH: Right) that you went into? (WH: Right) Uh, in the years before integration, was there a substantial amount of money put in the black schools?

WH: Well, they put that, I know Aracoma High School was really, uh, improved (AB: Mmm-hmm) quite a bit.

AB: When you went into the uh, uh, integrated school, was there any interracial dating among the uh, black and white kids?

WH: Mmm, not -- No, I don't think so. I imagine that, that happened outside the school. (AB: Mmm-hmm) I didn't see any of that.

AB: You didn't see it in the school (WH: Huh-uh) situation.

WH: Because most of it was just uh, if they were, if they were cheerleaders they were on the cheerleading squad and, and, and uh, basketball and football games, but I, I never saw any of that.

AB: Uh, in things like band were there, any, ever any problems with the black kids participating in band, say or traveling with the, uh, the band if they went to other communities for football games or anything like that? Did you ever hear of any, were there any concerns?

WH: Well, my sons, both of them were in, uh, in the band, junior high and high school bands. And, uh, I never had any, to say anything, any problems like that. I, with, with my youngest son, I thought it was, it, it improved him because, uh, they would go, he would go to all of the band, uh, festivals and things and uh, when he when he left junior high and went to the high school, they were voting on who's to be president of the sophomore class. So he had, he had, he had, he had been with all the band, he knew, he knew band members from Omar Junior High and Logan Junior High and Logan East Junior High and all of them. And uh, he was in the running. And I had a, a, a girl in my, I had a, the 9th grade homeroom, it was in my 9th grade homeroom, and she was running. So she came back, she came up, the school was out. High school let out before ours. And she came up and she told me, she says that uh, my son was a, was vice-president of the sophomore class. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) I said, "Oh, that's nice." I said and, uh, so when he, when I, when he came home, I said, "Well, congratulations. I hear you're vice-president of the sophomore class." He says, "No, Mom, I'm president." [laughter] You see, so I don't know. I, couldn't -- I said, I said, "Oh no." He said, "Yes." (RW-N: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm) So, uh, I don't know [inaudible].

AB: Do you think that, that your sons had the, the same kind of social life in high school that you had when you were. . . ?

WH: Oh, now, now, no, no, no, they didn't, hmm unh.

AB: What was the difference?

WH: Uh, well, one thing by, they didn't go to them that much, you know. (AB: Mmm hmm)

They didn't -- weren't interested in going to th --those things [inaudible]. (AB: Mmm hmm) Only the football games and basketball games and the band, things like that. (AB: Mmm hmm) They weren't interested.

AB: But neither of your sons played sports, did they, uh?

WH: Uh, no. They, they, no. Uh, Steve was on the track team once (AB: Mmm hmm) in, in high school. Uh, Michael went out for, uh, football. He loves football, but he was too small and couldn't make the team. [chuckles] So they were band members (AB: Mmm hmm) and uh, they got to go, Michael was at, at Macy's parade one time [inaudible].

AB: With the band?

WH: With the band, (AB: Mmm hmm) he did that. Steve went to, uh, Canada and to Florida with the band. And uh, when he was in junior high, uh, one thing about it, he, uh, Kesler was one of the parents that boarded those buses. He, he always saw that the, that the, that they were taken care of, (AB: Mmm-hmm) students.

AB: So, uh, (WH: Might be ...) you were vigilant parents then in terms of the experiences that your youngsters were having? Uh, now Michael is a doctor. Was he interested in medicine when he was in high school? Was he preparing for that profession or did that develop later?

WH: Well, it might have been when he was in high school because my brother is, was, was a doctor. He's, he's deceased now. And uh, we would go, we would spend about 4 days every summer with, with Chris and Roscoe. And he would read his medical books and things like that. He would, I'd, find him reading a lot. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And, but the uh, then when he went to, uh, uh, to West Virginia U. and uh, was, uh, let me see. . . You see, my, my memory's. . .

[chuckles] bad.

AB: You, they're doing fine. [chuckles]

WH: Uh, let me see. He was at, he was in the uh -- What's your husband's? Your husband was over that, wasn't he? *[Mrs. Hise refers to AB's husband, Nelson, and a post he had held at WV Univ.]*

RW-N: Nelson?

AB: With the, with the Black Students Associations?

WH: He was -- , and, uh, he was -- wasn't your husband in the Army?

AB: Yes, yes, the R.O.T.C.?

RW-N: The R.O.T.C.? Uh-huh.

WH: I was instigator of that because he uh, they were, they were taking the kids as soon as they left high school. Right? They had to join up then, (AB: Mmm hmm) but you don't have to now. (AB: Mmm hmm) Uh, after, Steve didn't have to, but Michael did. (AB: Uh-huh) And I said, "Well, Michael, I believe it would be good for you to, to get in R.O.T.C." I said, "At least you'll know something about the Army and what is expected." (AB: Mmm hmm) And I said, "Now, you don't have to," I said, "but I think that would be a good idea. I wouldn't want you going over there getting, uh, killed as a private, (AB: Mmm hmm) you know." So he did. (AB: Mmm hmm) So, and it was a . . .

AB: But he, he went through R.O.T.C., but he didn't go in the service, did he?

WH: Yes.

AB: Oh, did he?

WH: They deferred, uh, they deferred him. (AB: Uh-huh) That's the only reason he did not go, they deferred him. Oh, uh, they deferred him until he went to the University of Michigan and

finished his work. (AB: Mmm hmm) And then he, when he, they were, that very, as soon as he finished he had to report to Texas, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. (AB: Mmm hmm) And then he went from there to Korea. (AB: Uh-huh) (RW-N: Oh)

AB: So he served about 3 years or so?

WH: I think so. (AB: Mmm hmm) And that was an experience and then it was helpful to him because when he, when he ca -- uh, when he got out of the service, see, he went for uh, he went to Clev --, to Cleveland and he was, uh, he was just taking extra, extra things. (AB: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm)

AB: So, so when he was in high school, he did science and whatnot?

WH: Oh, yes, uh-huh.

AB: Was that at your encouragement or was that something he wanted?

WH: Uh, I [inaudible] it was him because (AB: Uh-huh) I didn't, I didn't encourage. I didn't, I didn't have anything really, but he was, he was, he was good in math too in high school cause I know I used to, [chuckles] I know I wasn't good at math. I, oh, we used to sort of have it. He was explaining something to me or I, and he said, "Dad." [chuckles] So uh, so, he was, he was pretty good and I looked, they -- you know when they take those tests, (AB: Mmm-hmm) the SAT test, he scored very high in math and science. (AB: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm) And see, on Steve's, they, they scored around the same figures, but Steve was more or less in social studies (AB: Mmm-hmm) (RW-N: Uh-huh) and that, that area, not in. . .

AB: So they had different strengths then?

WH: Yes, uh-huh.

RW-N: I want to go back and ask you what kind of a teacher you were [WH: chuckles] if you

were to describe that?

WH: Well, uh, I was very interested in the students and uh, when I looked out at, when I look at the community, most of them looked at home economics as, uh, cooking and sewing (AB: Mmm-hmm) and you couldn't get that, you couldn't get away from that. And uh, so we had to, you had to, to, uh, have, have those, those 2, uh, units lasted longer than the rest, but uh, I had a, and I had a lot of students in, in the 7th and 8th grade. I also was, uh, in charge of the lunch program. So what my, my job was cut out for me. So I had uh, I got permission from the uh, principal to order sets of home economics books, you know. And uh, I got, I, I, I got books, home economics textbooks so that they could take them home. They had their own books and things. They would know I was trying to get them interested in, in, in the whole area of home economics, not just cooking and sewing and [inaudible].

RW-N: Which would include what else?

WH: Uh, uh, uh, family, shelter, and clothing and, and uh, grooming and uh, taking care of the, uh, taking care of the, of the home and uh, having, having chores and, and uh, things of that sort.

AB: Did you ever have any boys in, in your home ec classes?

WH: I had, ye -- oh, yes, in, a few in, in senior high school. All they were in--, interested in was eating. They liked to. . . [laughter] But it was, it was, it was an experience because I had a, I had about equal, I had about 10 students, about 5 girls and 5 boys and they always wanted to plan the Thanksgiving dinner and [chuckles] the boys wanted [chuckles] to eat up all the food and, and uh, then I had a little sewing unit for them. I had them making carpenter aprons, (RW-N: Uh-huh) things of that sort.

RW-N: Were you a strict teacher? (WH: Well) When I think of home ec rooms as students not

just sitting in a row of seats, but they're moving around, they're doing things. How do you keep that going and organized and disciplined? How, how could, how did you do that?

WH: Well, you, you uh, I always worked, had my students in groups, to work in groups. And I, like the, like we're sitting at this table. Well, if, if we had 6 tables in the room, or 3 tables or whatever, uh, they would work in groups (RW-N: Mmm hmm) you see. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And so I would go from one group to the other. And uh. . .

RW-N: Do you see yourself as a person who is high in, with organizations skills, of keeping things organized?

WH: I don't know. I, I would say that uh, I uh, maybe I'm a lucky person. I was, I was, I would give myself a, a C+ or B-, I'm not, you understand? But I, uh. . .

RW-N: You mean in organization (WH: Yes) or as a teacher?

WH: As a teacher, I think that I would give myself that. Not an A because, uh, . . .

AB: Why not an A?

WH: [chuckles] I uh, -- In some things maybe.

RW-N: What would you get the A's in?

WH: Cl -- uh, clothing and uh, design and stuff, but you won't -- can't see it here.

RW-N: You can't see it here?

WH: Mmm hmm.

RW-N: You mean in your home?

WH: In my home.

RW-N: How come?

WH: You, you could see, you could see I was more or less interested in family development and .

... (RW-N: Uh-huh) I never, uh, at first, see when we moved into this house, uh, it was a, it looks worse, I mean it was, we, uh, -- How would I put it? The boys and their dad did most of the work on this house. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) Cause he had, he had some vocational, he did some vocational work, too, (AB: Mmm hmm) and uh, it has changed a, a, a lot. And uh, that's the reason I said -- now I would because I never actually bought expensive furniture. I saw that they had good beds and things like that, (RW-N: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) but I always thought sometimes, we always planned to have a turnkey job, have some, you know what, but that, Father Time kept, crept up on us [chuckles] by the time we got them out of college, and everything, Father Time was on us So . . .

RW-N: What did you find um, most satisfying about teacher -- teaching then or even as you look back on it now?

WH: Well, then the, uh, the uh, this, the success of some of the students that left here. Cause we had a lot of, uh, successful students leaving, especially Aracoma High School and even those in, uh, that, that, that uh, started out in the uh, ele --, in the, in the black schools. They've been pretty successful. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And even now, some of those students are doing okay when their parents are behind them and they're checking on them. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) They're doing okay cause I have a family that lives on this side that uh, the bo -- had [inaudible word], one boy and girl and, uh, and, uh, a bunch of girls. They're all good citizens. He's in, he, he, he's in computer work and uh, uh, the last time I talked with some of them, their, their, their children are finishing college down in Florida some place some of them. Some of them are, are in Maryland and uh, the, on this side, uh, the Fields, they're all -- were, were, were good students and, uh, one is with still is with his mother. The rest of them left here. I understand one of

them's a millionaire. [chuckles]

(AB: Oh.) And he's working with the uh, gas, gas, Columbia Gas Company.

AB: So there was something evidently in the community or in the school that gave those students a fairly solid grounding and allowed them to develop themselves as human beings (WH: Yes.) and as successful citizens you think.

WH: I think so. I think so.

AB: You described yourself, uh, as being quiet (WH: Mmm hmm) and, are you shy?

WH: Right. [chuckles]

AB: How did that work as a teacher? If, if, uh, I think you also said that you didn't allow the students to I guess, take advantage of you. (WH: Mmm hmm) How do you, how do you put those parts of, of your personal feelings and your public responsibilities together?

WH: [Inaudible] I just had to say, "Now wait a minute." [chuckles] You know, and I said, "Now let's get things straight here." Just from that on, I . . .

RW-N: So I get the sense that although in general you may be somewhat shy, but in the classroom (WH: Now) you knew you were boss.

WH: Yes, mmm hmm.

RW-N: Is that fair to say?

WH: Yes, that's right, uh-huh.

RW-N: Are you still shy?

WH: I'm still shy.

RW-N: How do, how does that come out? How do you know that about yourself even now are there situations that are difficult, social dis -- social situations perhaps?

WH: Well, meeting, uh, meeting people like you and. . . [chuckles] these, the 2 of you makes me kind of shy.

AB: But you seem to have done some really daring things in your life. You went to Cornell. (WH: Mmm hmm) You went to Washington and worked. (WH: Yes, mmm hmm) Um, those don't seem to be things that a shy person does.

WH: [chuckles] Well, maybe, but, I don't know, I don't know, but uh, maybe I was adventurous or, well, I, maybe it was my family. I think my mother was uh, was la -- you know, sort of the quiet. . . Let me get you -- want me to get you something? Here you're looking. . .

[tape stopped]

AB: We were talking, uh, with one of the other persons that we were interviewing (WH: Mmmhmm) some time ago and she said that she loved being old. She says she's having a great time, uh, as an older person. Uh, how is that with you and your life? Are you as, uh, happy and satisfied at, at this point in your life as you were earlier or is it better or what?

WH: Well, in a, I, I guess, uh, in the past few years that uh, we, you know, our health is, Kesler has had problems with his health and uh, right now I'm having problems with mine maybe in the past, uh, since 3 or 4 years. But otherwise, we did pretty good when we'd go up and see our grandchildren and, and uh, Michael and his family. We went to uh Disneyland with them. Oh, I liked that. (AB: Mmm hmm) And saw more grandmothers there. And, uh, an incident that, uh, happened there, they, they were, uh, the *Golden Girls*, they were showing the *Golden Girls* at, uh, at the place where we went. And uh, they were asking for somebody from the audience to come up and be at the, the, they put them into the movie, you know. (AB: Mmm hmm) But you couldn't take pictures, they didn't allow any pictures or anything and so all the little kids wanted

to be in it and uh, Kesler was wearing a, a Westinghouse cap that that Steve had given him (AB: Mmm hmm) and, uh, they kept looking around. "You, the guy with the West -- with the cap on."
And he said -- I said, "Kesler, they're talking about you." [chuckles] And uh, and he, they, they got him up there, "And you too." So Michael and Kesler were filmed with the *Golden Girls*.
[chuckles] They came and they went to the -- they were at the door. One was, one was in, they were in, on the police department or something.

AB: [chuckles] Oh, okay, that's cute.

WH: Oh, it was nice.

RW-N: Have you had any chance to travel much . . .

WH: No.

RW-N: . . . in the last years?

WH: No, not that. Not as much as I would like because I uh, uh, my uh, Kesler's sister-in-law, uh, was going to the Holy Land and she wanted me to go, but he didn't want me to leave.

(AB: Mmm hmm) You see, he didn't want me to go. (AB: Mmm hmm) I could have gone there, a lot of places that. . . He doesn't, one thing about it, he doesn't fly. (AB: Mmm hmm) And it, oh, and it just makes it so hard. (RW-N: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: And he doesn't want you to go without him? Or you don't want to go without him?

WH: He doesn't want me to go.

RW-N: You would go otherwise.

WH: I would go in a minute. [chuckles] I would go in a minute.

RW-N: So there is a little bit of an adventuresome streak in you. [chuckles]

WH: Yeah, yeah [inaudible].

RW-N: If you had, if you, uh, looked back, um, on your life and you could change one thing, what might you pick?

WH: Hmm, that's a hard one. That's, that's hard.

RW-N: Something perhaps that you once or more said to yourself, "Well, I wish I had done that or had done that or been better at this or. . ."

WH: Mmm hmm, I believe I would have finished, if I'd had a chance to, to finish, uh, schooling. I believe I would have gone a little bit further. And uh, and I believe I, I would be more involved in, in civic work because, uh, my husband was so busy after that he was always into something that I, had to be -- someone had to be there.

AB: You mean with the family? (WH: Yes, uh-huh) Taking care of the boys and whatnot.

WH: So...

RW-N: So he, was he involved, your husband involved in a lot of civic things as well as well as job things?

WH: Oh, yes.

RW-N: And so you kept the home fires going -- more. . .

WH: Right, right, uh-huh.

RW-N: Did your shyness have anything to do with that too? That it was easier for you to be at home?

WH: [Chuckles] Perhaps, perhaps it was one cover, one, one thing, that's probably, probably why. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: But you also, you. . .

END OF TAPE 2 - SIDE 1

BEGINNING OF TAPE 2 - SIDE 2

RW-N: If, if you had, um, to go back, you might have had more education you said. (WH: Mmm hmm) Would that been more of the same thing that you were into or would that have been something different?

WH: Well, it would probably have been, uh, it, uh, like I said, I, I was so much interested in clothes and things like that, it -- I, I would probably have been interested in, uh, in clothing more or less, designing and (RW-N: Mmm hmm) and, uh, maybe, maybe with a department store, something like that. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And then I also thought in terms of going, uh, being a nurse at one time because, uh --

AB: Uh, did you, when, were you still in high school when you were thinking about nursing?

WH: No, I think I was focused on being a home economics teacher then because I knew that uh, there's -- this county, uh, wanted the people that were in the county. They were looking for, and, and most of the teachers at Aracoma High School were outside the county.

AB: When you say "outside of the county" what do you mean?

WH: They were either from uh, from uh, from Huntington like, uh, Rosalie or from Charleston like Emma Barnes Carter or from Welch like the, like the, the, the uh, home ec teacher, uh, Mrs. Hull, Bruce Hull's wife was a home economics teacher when I was there, but then there was another one that came, Ardella Thompson after, after uh, after, after the Hulls left. And uh, she was the one that met me on the street and wanted to know when I was finishing because she wanted to go back to her family. [chuckles]

AB: So you said that, y-you think that the county was interested in hiring people whose homes

were (WH: Right, right) in Logan County (WH: Uh-huh) and that sort of encouraged you to, uh, stay and teach rather than go (WH: Mm hmm) into nursing?

WH: Yeah.

AB: Or so. (WH: Uh-huh) So what, were you already in college when, uh, you thought of nursing or were you teaching when you thought of nursing?

WH: Yes, I'm, I was teaching.

AB: You were teaching.

WH: It was around -- during the, during, during World War, when it was going on I was sort of. .
[inaudible]

AB: What made you think of nursing?

WH: Well, I thought, it was a need for it. [chuckles]

AB: Because there was a need.

WH: And uh, with the background that I had, that I could easily have trans --, gone into it.

AB: In science. Your science background (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) would have transferred into. . .

RW-N: Would you, if you had to make a choice today, would you do it all over again? Would you become a teacher today?

WH: I believe I would -- now that it's over.

RW-N: So you've had a certain satisfactions (WH: Yes) out of it.

WH: Uh-huh, because of, I've seen a lot of the students do well and, uh, I know I had, uh, one of my students, uh, finished in home economics and, and also. . .

RW-N: What do you mean finished in home economics?

WH: Uh, got her degree in home economics from West Virginia State.

RW-N: Is that right?

WH: And then, uh, uh, this is a white girl that I taught at uh, Holden. I -- up there, you know, you couldn't, you couldn't ask the children to, to uh, buy books. They had the choice. I had uh, uh, uh, home making books and I had gotten for my 9th graders. And, and I cou -- that, so I asked them to, uh, some of the parents were, bought books for them, the book that I wanted. But you couldn't, you couldn't -- it wasn't, uh, that the uh, the Board of Education didn't buy books for, for general home economics so, and I, and I started that and uh, I asked the little girl, I said, "You going to leave your book for us, for me to sell?" you know, for the next class. She says, "Oh no, Mrs. Hise, I'm taking mine with me." And you know she's teaching home economics in, uh, uh, in, in Ohio. And I, I talked to her mother. I see her mother and father in church when I go. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And, uh, the lady was telling me, said "Your ears should have burned," say, "cause they su --they talk about you all the time." [AB: Chuckles] Mmm hmm, so I sort of had a flu --influence, on some of them. And also, uh, uh, some of the uh teachers uh, that are teaching in different states, Shirley Williams was a, I know that from down at, uh, West Virginia, she went to West Virginia State. Marilyn Page and, uh, of course Dana Couch went to West Virginia U. AB: So --(WH: They're all teaching.) you feel that some influence ... (WH: Some influence) on your students.

WH: Yes, I do.

AB: When you were talking about the books a moment ago, was it that, uh, the county had a prescribed curriculum that did not include textbooks in home economics?

WH: Right, right.

AB: And so if you wanted your students to have other experiences, (WH: Mmm hmm) you either had to provide the books or encourage them (WH: Right) to look outside of the curriculum.

WH: Mmm hmm, and it was very hard then because you didn't have too many magazines and things coming in to the homes. (AB: Mmm hmm) It was very hard. (RW-N: Like you do today.) Mmm hmm. (RW-N: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Um, I want to ask you a somewhat more general question (WH: Mmm hmm) that is connected a little bit to, uh, questions about your life. Um, do you see women's lives compared to men's lives as more restricted in the kinds of opportunities and things that they could do, back when you were a young woman (WH: Oh, yes) particularly? (WH: Yes) Yes, you do?

WH: Yes, mmm hmm. There wasn't too much you could do. I, I do see that.

RW-N: And, and specifically, um, I'm relating that now to gender, that women's lives were more restricted than men's (WH: Right) in general.

WH: And some men can't get [chuckles] that out of their mind today [continues to chuckle]..

RW-N: And some men haven't changed in that way? In what way, tell me about that?

WH: [chuckles] I shouldn't have said that.

RW-N: No, you should say that [chuckles] if you -- that's the way you feel. Some men feel that way in what? Still wanting women's lives restricted?

WH: I gue -- I think so. I'm not -- some of them love for them to get out and work and do and, but, uh. . . My husband, I won't -- I don't know. I -- strike that out. [chuckles]

RW-N: But some, but some men you feel what, still want women to play a more traditional role in the family, is that, (WH: Mmm-hmm) is that what you mean?

WH: Yes.

RW-N: Is that what you're intimating? Uh-huh. And, and you see that as restrictive for women?

WH: I think so. I think so.

AB: Do you see that that's any difference between black women and white women, um, at all?

WH: Nah, I never thought about it, about it [inaudible]. I, I, I noticed one, one thing though that most of them waited, the, the white women, waited until their children were old enough to go to school before they got into teaching and things. (AB: Mmm hmm) And uh, you know ...

AB: Uh. Some things have changed for women, for example, I think, uh, in the law school classes now, (WH: Mmm hmm) many of them are, at least at West Virginia University, I think are almost half women.

(WH: Oh) as compared to years ago (WH: Mmm hmm) when there were almost no women. (WH: Mmm hmm) So there are some changes (WH: Mmm hmm) that have taken place. (WH: Mmm hmm) How do you feel about those kinds of changes?

WH: I think it's good. I think it's good for them. In fact, I, your husband wrote an article, in the paper, that I, I had, uh, copied and sent a copy to Steve and to Mike. A woman needs to have a, have her own, uh, finances. I think she, she doesn't need to be tied down to just what I can give you or this. I think they need to be independent when you go into a marriage. Uh, I think it's, I think it's very important. [the phrase "your husband," four lines back, refers to AB's husband.]

RW-N: How much independence do you feel that you've had in your life?

WH: Mmm, uh, I -- I think quite a bit, I guess, um, of independence because, uh, especially after I, I was, uh, . . . It was necessary when we were coming up to stick together because, um, after my mother passed, it was necessary for that. But after that, I uh -- selecting home economics wasn't just because they needed a home economics teacher in Logan County; it was because that

was my, had been my interest a long time. Even when, uh, uh, my sister, Elaine, was in, going to Teacher Training High School and, at Institute, she took me to school with her one morning, one day and, uh, and when she was in her sewing class, the lady asked me, says, "What do you do -- what do. . .?" Said, "Can you sew?" And Elaine said, "Oh, she can." I'm about 8 and uh, she gave me some material and some scissors and I fixed a little kimono for her (RW-N: Mmm hmm) during the class period so. . .

RW-N: So you're saying that decision came from you, about who you were and your interests? (WH: Mmm hmm, yes) And then of course, you worked outside of the home for years. (WH: Mmm hmm) Have you, have you managed fin -- your own finances or have you had some measure of independence? That was one of the things that you just said that you think that's important for women to. . .

WH: It's very important.

RW-N: Have you had some independence along those lines?

WH: Yes, I have because, I -- I mean, it's, and it's good to sit down and talk and uh, Mrs. Bickley you asked me how it affected, uh, how some things. . . I'm, I, I listen, I don't have to agree. I don't have to make a big noise, but I can think, "Now is this the right thing to do or is it not the right thing to do?" Cause my husband loves cars and uh, he says, "Well now, listen." Said, uh, we were, we were, uh, we were saving money together. And he says, uh, there was a car he wanted and he says, "Now if you, if, uh, if I get this car." Says, "You'll, you'll be allowed to save your, save the money, all the, all this, for this particular period, that's yours." I said, "Well, good." I took -- I accepted that because that meant that that, uh, money is still mine. [chuckles] You see? That's the reason I said, you need to be, you need to have your own money.

And it has worked out that it's, that, that might be one of the things that uh, -- you wonder why marriages last long? You can't let them take over entirely. You've got to know and speak for yourself and money talks. [chuckles] (RW-N: Mmm hmm) That's what I think, cause it does.

AB: So there comes a point for you, uh, when you go along with things to a certain point, but then (WH: Mmm hmm) there is a time when you will speak up if there's something that disturbs you (WH: Uh-huh) or so. (WH: Yes, uh-huh) As you compare your life with your mother's, say, how, how do you compare your life to hers? Do you think that, uh, yours is as satisfactory say, as hers was or so?

WH: I think it's more because she didn't, uh, she was a little -- she was a country girl. And then, uh, my education and, and, and, and being a, being a teacher and being able to finish college. I think I've had more advantages than, uh, than she had.

RW-N: We often ask women we speak with to, um, again, look back on their lives and to pick out of their lives important decisions they made or events that happened to them that really put them on the path of their life. It seems that you're, without our actually asking you that question, that you have actually said that becoming a teacher, getting an education, becoming a teacher changed your life. (WH: Mmm hmm, right, right) That -- in your life that would be an important thing.

WH: That's right.

RW-N: Are there other things like that in your life that you see really were instrumental in shaping the kind of life you've had?

WH: Well, you'll have to give me some -- I don't know.

RW-N: But being, but being, getting a formal education, becoming a teacher certainly is, (WH: It

was, mmm hmm) was important to you in that way. (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) Have you changed much from the time you were young?

WH: Well, with my ideals, I think that, uh, coming up, my father always, uh, wanted us to be, make something, be some, make our lives, be something, uh, worthwhile. And he was strict, very strict on us.

RW-N: Was he too strict?

WH: Uh, I don't, I don't think so. [chuckles]

AB: Did he spank?

WH: Very seldom. He spanked very seldom and when he, I didn't want that. [chuckles] No way. He'd take a little ruler and just -- "Are you going to do that again?" Pank, pank, pank, pank. Shoot, I didn't want that stuff. [laughter]

AB: So that meant you, you did the things that you were supposed to do so you could avoid that?

WH: Oh, yes indeed. [AB: laughter]

RW-N: But he did teach you, he, he did want for you to make some kind of a good life for yourself and (WH: Right, uh-huh) good meant what? (WH: Uh-huh, yes) What, what, what was the parts, what would define "good?" To be a good person? To have a good job? To, to be successful in terms of making money? To be educated? What, what (WH: Mmm-hmm) defined good?

WH: To find a good educated husband. [chuckles].

RW-N: To find a good educated husband?

WH: Uh-huh, and, uh, he didn't want us to be, he didn't us to marry anyone that was in the mines, that worked in a mine.

RW-N: Uh-huh.

AB: Why not?

WH: I guess maybe, I guess he was a miner and he didn't see, you know, he didn't see any future of him getting out. (AB: Mmm hmm) And I know my brother, Orlando, uh, would talk to, to Roscoe. Roscoe worked before, before he went to college he worked a summer in the mine to get his tuition and uh, he said, now, he said now you, you just go right on. If you need anything I'm going to help you because, um, he, he was, uh, My father loaded coal. My brother was either a brakesman or, uh, uh, something else that, that they did. Uh, motor, he ran the motor some and he was a brakesman in the mines, dangerous work. So, uh, he didn't want his girls, his boys to do that and I think they've done really well too. He did not want them to be miners.

(RW-N: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: And he wanted the girls not to necessarily marry miners?

WH: Right, uh-huh.

RW-N: But to do other things with their lives?

WH: Right, mmm hmm. So that did happen. I . . .

RW-N: So how, so how have you developed or stuck with some of that or changed as you have lived these years?

WH: Uh. . . I don't know. I, I think I've -- kind of developed some of it because now I didn't, I didn't want my, I wanted my, my boys -- to make sure that they had a good education. Now that didn't mean, with all due respects to my college, I like West Virginia State College. It was a fine college and still is. But, uh, they wanted to go to West Virginia U., something different. They wanted to go there and, uh, that's where, that's where they, they went. So, uh, I wanted them to

do what they, what they wanted to do as long as it was, uh, they -- that they were getting a good education and would have good job prospects.

RW-N: And that might mean leaving this area? (WH: Right) And that was okay with you?

WH: That was okay with me.

RW-N: The world was going to be their oyster.

WH: Right, mmm hmm.

AB: Did you encourage them, uh, to uh, move beyond their local circumstances.

WH: Right, uh-huh, I did.

AB: Some of that adventurousness [chuckles] that you experienced, you were willing for them to experience as well. (WH: Uh-huh, uh-huh, yeah, mmm hmm. I don't. . . , mmm hmm)

RW-N: I want to go back to the independence-dependence thing for a moment because when I'm, I'm asking you about (WH: Mmm hmm) how you have changed, do you think you have changed along that dimension in any way? Um. . .

WH: Being independent?

RW-N: Being independent or would you say, "No, I was always independent," or has that grown more as you have gotten older?

WH: I think, I think it -- perhaps has grown more, being independent because I, I look at a -- for instance, like I said, my brother, Roscoe, helped me in college. Uh, uh, and then when, when, when, when I got out of college, my father needed help, you see. And so we, we, we, that's another thing, that's another avenue, that time in your life when there's changing, you become the one that's helping. And I did that (RW-N: Mmm hmm) until I . . .

RW-N: For your father?

WH: Mmm -- we did that, got together. I mentioned that to you about, uh, about the, uh, how they cut off the men, old men.

RW-N: Yes, and he had no pension?

WH: Right, uh-huh, and we saw that, that uh, that. . . Now I don't want that to happen to my kids. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) See, I want to be, uh, independent enough to, to look out to have, to look out for myself and they won't have to be bothered with that. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Well, it seems to me that you felt some of that when you were a young woman too. Uh, when we asked about why you wanted to go to college or to be a teacher, you said, "Well, there was nothing else here to do. (WH: Right) except to work for other people." (WH: Right) So you were rejecting that (WH: Right) as okay for you, you wanted to do other things. (WH: Mmm hmm, so. . .)

AB: I think^{you} said once that too that your sons had sort of suggested that you might want to leave Logan County and relocate somewhere that was closer (WH: Mmm hmm) uh, to them. But so far you have not.

WH: Now that's the reason I'm sticking on to everything I say bec -- uh, uh, . . . No, I haven't done, done that. I would love to see those little girls grow up, you know, be right, right (AB: Mmm hmm) not, not live with them. (AB: Mmm hmm) I don't want to live with . . .

AB: But to be within visiting distance.

WH: Yes. [overlapping voices]

RW-N: Closer to your grandchildren.

WH: Yes, yes, uh-huh. I'd love that.

RW-N: Yes.

WH: That, that's one thing I'd like to. . .

RW-N: That's one of the bad things when you encourage your children to go out into the broader world, you often end up not, not seeing grandchildren.

WH: That's right, (RW-N: That's, mmm hmm) I'd, I'd, I'd love to. . . I think I'm missing something there.

AB: Mmm hmm. Now you don't have any immediate family here in Logan County any more?

WH: Yes, I have a brother.

AB: You have a brother here?

WH: Uh-huh.

AB: Uh, nieces and nephews here?

WH: No, nieces and nephews. They're all gone (AB: Mmm hmm) and. . .

RW-N: And does your husband have family here who, who you see or who you are close to and. . . ?

WH: Well, he just lost his sister, uh, this past summer (RW-N: Mmm hmm) and uh, that was the, that was the only one left. We, he doesn't have any here either.

AB: So you all are pretty much alone here then?

WH: Mmm hmm.

RW-N: How about friends?

WH: The only friends, uh, uh, I mean, I have, I go to sorority meeting once in a while.

RW-N: You do?

WH: Mmm hmm. But not, not lately. My husband's getting to the point where in that he thinks I'm supposed to be, and I think that's aging. (AB: Mmm hmm) And that's why uh, I think that

we should go, we should move closer. (AB: Mmm hmm) I do need a break. [chuckles]

RW-N: Is he becoming, is he becoming more dependent on you? (WH: Yes, mmm hmm) Is that what you're saying?

WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm.

RW-N: Um, for his, for everyday things he, he just wants you around?

WH: And dependent on me for everything. (RW-N: Uh-huh) I have to look after business (RW-N: Uh-huh) and everything else.

AB: May I ask how old your husband is?

WH: 84.

AB: He's 84. (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm)

RW-N: And that's more than it used to be?

WH: Yes, I didn't have to, I didn't have to worry about, I helped, but I didn't have to worry about all the. . . Now it's my responsibility to do most of it. (AB: Mmm hmm) Until, and uh, until, uh, maybe he thinks I'm going too far then I [inaudible]. [laughter] So I have more responsibilities for things. (RW-N: Uh-huh, uh-huh)

RW-N: So that, well, that is harder as you get older and that's what you were saying about in the last few years and you've had some health problems (WH: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) that you, that those problems are cropping up (WH: Uh-huh) a little.

WH: And we're going to need help. You, you, you get, uh, I look at it like this, no matter what your finances are that you've got to watch, be very careful. I notice, uh, on the television and in the papers, uh, older people have to be careful.

AB: Because they become prey for. . .

WH: Right.

AB: . . . for others, yes, yes.

WH: And, and uh, for instance, uh, I'm always saying, "Well, we need to have something done." I'm, for instance, I was thinking about, I said, "If you're going to stay I'm going to do some, get some things all and uh, . . ." He, he's skeptical about who will we get. And uh, like even working out uh, in the house, I take my time, but I can't do everything. (AB: Mmm hmm) So I, when, whenever anything uh, uh, happens and I say, "Well, I just, I just have to leave it alone (AB: Mmm hmm) and do this." But I'm, I'm at, at the point where I know that, uh, there's going to have to be a change some

RW-N: Some place down the line. (AB: Mmm hmm)

WH: Right now because I'm 79. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) So with the year 2000 coming up, then I'll be 80. (AB: Mmm hmm) So that's time for, for us to. . . And, and Michael's been a good son. And he's sort of, he stays in the, you know, and he always mentions things that, "Don't you think you should do this, that, and the other?" And I say, "Yes."

RW-N: Now Michael is the son who lives in (WH: [inaudible].) the Baltimore area. Yes. He has 2 children too, right? (WH: Mmm hmm) And how do you get along with his wife?

WH: Fine, oh, she's a lovely person. (RW-N: Uh-huh) She came in, they came in uh, I believe it was in August and uh, what happened? We always -- 30 years in a house, anything can happen.

[chuckles]

RW-N: Oh, yes.

WH: I think something happened to, uh, I believe the, uh, the sump pump that takes the water from the (RW-N: Mmm hmm) air conditioner. Something happened and we were down there. I

had to, had to, to help him. See, I had to do. . . And uh, I said, I said, they oh, they're going to be in this afternoon, and I had a, had a turkey breast I'd planned to cook. (AB: Mmm hmm) She comes in and she just takes over and does it. She's good. (AB: Mmm hmm) She's, she is really good.

RW-N: Now she was not a local girl?

WH: No, she's from Columbus. Her family grew up in Columbus (RW-N: Uh-huh) and uh, she's white. This g- this girl looks just like her. (RW-N: Uh-huh)

AB: Mrs., Mrs. Hise [inaudible]. is showing us a picture of .

RW-N: So you do have some white in your family, but it's not in the past (WH: Not, not in my, no) it's, it's grandchildren.

WH: Uh-huh, and I've met the. . . I mean she got married at home. (AB: Mmm hmm) And I met the whole family. They're a lovely family. (AB: Uh-huh)

AB: And so there's been no problem between you and the family and with their acceptance of Mike (WH: No, huh-uh) and the grandchildren, they, uh, (WH: Right. As far as I know.) That's very nice.

RW-N: So as you get older then and think of a change, um, Michael has, is, is sensitive to that fact, too, that there [WH: He knows] may have to be some changes down the line. (WH: He knows.) I get the sense almost that right now in your marriage that you may be almost the leader. Is that true?

WH: [Inaudible] Right right through here I'm taking care of everything.

RW-N: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm. And that's getting a little bit heavy burden for you.

WH: Right because of my health. (RW-N: Yes) mmm hmm, my problems.

RW-N: Right, right. Do you, uh, do your health problems right now keep the 2 of you in your house a lot or can you still get out at all? You do go to sorority you say.

WH: Well, not as often, Mmm hmm.

RW-N: As you used to?

WH: Mmm hmm. Mmm hmm. It keeps us, uh, when we go to the post office, to the bank, to the grocery store, we, we still manage to do those things and to the doctor.

RW-N: Yes, yes, and you're still meeting people on the street who you've known as you do those things. Is that true?

WH: It gets hard -- sort of difficult at times.

AB: You drive, do you Mrs. Hise?

WH: No, I don't drive. Uh, I don't know if you've noticed it or not, I've got, uh, double vision (AB: Mmm hmm) at times. It has happened I think the doctor said it was a . . . I went to the Wilma Eye Institute (AB: Mmm hmm) but it was a, a, one of those T I A s, Said after . . . I, I am, I'm on high blood pressure medication. (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: I'm sorry, it was one of those what?

WH: Trans ischemic attacks, where there're veins, something has gone in that eye and it. . .

RW-N: It's a health condition. (WH: Uh-huh) Yes, okay.

AB: So that interferes with your vision so that you cannot drive.

WH: It blurs, blurs.

RW-N: But, but, had, did you drive at one time?

WH: Yes. (RW-N: Yes)

AB: But if we could back up for a moment, we were talking about your being adventurous and

going to places like Cornell to go to school and now your role in the family seems to have shifted and you are doing more in the way of managing family business than you used to do (WH: Mmm-hmm) early on. But somehow it seems to me you've always had that strength.

WH: Well, I, it was so hard for me to make a dollar. [chuckles] They say if, if you make one, you make a dollar you're supposed to keep at least 10 percent of it. (AB: Uh-huh) But uh, [inaudible].

AB: But the things you're doing now, uh, is an emerging you that was always there, I think. You, you perhaps didn't have, is it fair to say that you didn't, uh, exert your strength in the family later on, but you always knew that, uh, (WH: Well, I knew that. . .) you could do things.

WH: Well, I guess it comes from, uh, uh, yeah, I knew to do things (AB: Mmm hmm) when it was nec -- when it was necessary. (AB: Uh-huh) when it became actually necessary. I -- (AB: Mmm hmm)

RW-N: Well, in the younger, in your younger years and the younger, the earlier time of your marriage, um, your husband was probably not as dependent on you. Is that true?

WH: No, no.

RW-N: He was not? (WH: Hmm mmm) But did you always still feel that you could discuss and negotiate what you needed or was he the more dominant one?

WH: Well, we did, we did a lot of discussions. I, uh, you know you, you don't have the perfect marriage. (RW-N: True, absolutely) But we did a lot of discussions and sometimes I, I've always uh, made me a list when I would think about things I guess -- a page of assets and liabilities.

(RW-N: Uh-huh) [chuckles] And I said, "Shoot, I'm not going anywhere." [laughter]

RW-N: You mean in terms of financial assets and liabilities?

WH: And everything. (RW-N: In every-) Everything, cause, uh, he's a handsome man and people're waiting and, and he's (RW-N: Yes, yes) and he had a good job. He had a good job, you know, things and he, he could move. (AB: Uh-huh)

RW-N: So he came on the asset list. [laughter]

WH: Assets and liabilities. [laughter]

RW-N: And some liabilities.

WH: So now I feel that it's my time now to sort of, you know, maybe I'm one of the. . . He might be a liability, but he's not that much of a liability, I can tell you that. [laughter] I've got to, I've got to look out for him. (AB: Mmm hmm) Mmm hmm, yeah.

RW-N: Um, we talked a little bit earlier about, uh, the changes that have occurred in women's lives and I want to ask you for a moment to think about, um, the intersection between being a male and female and being a black and white person. Um, specifically I'm thinking of this that, um, some of the things, um, that I've read, uh, by black women writers has suggested, and it's suggested other places too, that black women have had a particularly heavy load to carry in life (WH: Mmm hmm) because they've had the disadvantage of being women, in terms of opportunities, and then they've had the prejudice and discrimination of racism. (WH: Mmmhmm) So it's kind of been a double burden. (WH: Mmm hmm) Do you relate to any of that idea?

WH: I think so, yeah, mmm-hmm. And I, and I noticed that a lot of the more, uh, black women are being educated than men now. I've noticed the trend for that and uh, I don't know why that, uh, the young, uh, young blacks are, you know, are, are getting like that. I wonder if. . .

RW-N: Do you think that life has been harder for black women than for black men?

WH: I don't, I don't know. So, as far as I'm -- the way that I think a man has had a, black man's

had a hard time too, now I'm telling you. He's had a hard time.

AB: Do you think it's been harder for black women than for white women?

WH: Oh, yes.

AB: In what respect?

WH: Well, jobs for, for one thing, mmm hmm.

RW-N: And how, and how have black men had a tougher time (WH: Well. . .) even maybe than black women?

WH: Uh, because a, they would like to do, uh -- It was just like my father. He would have liked to have done something else besides mine. But he, that was about all, th -- even in the mines, they, uh, uh, when the, when, when you got to be a, a brakesman or a motorman, most of those jobs were, those were, were for white people. But uh, my brother was one of the lucky ones.

Most, most of the things that they did was just load coal. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: So you're saying that the, uh, the lack of opportunities for jobs for black people has affected both women and men certainly. (WH: Yes, mm hmm. Yes, indeed.) Have you, um, participated in any way in the Civil Rights Movement?

WH: No, I, I, I didn't participate. Uh, only reading about it and on. I didn't, didn't, uh, participate in it. I didn't think that I was qualified, you know, to do that.

AB: Was there much in the way of activism that went on here in, in Logan County? For example, there was big thing in Charleston about integrating the Diamond lunch counter, the department store lunch counter. People were sitting in and marching and whatnot. Was there anything like that that went on here?

WH: No.

AB: So it was all pretty quiet and whatnot?

WH: Mmm hmm . And, uh, I think the -- with, with as far, uh, as I was concerned. I was, uh, -- they had a -- you ,you get accustomed to a certain thing. You know that, uh, I believe that's, that's what happened here. You just weren't interested in. . . Well, so what? You can go and sit at the lunch counter in the drug store. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) You know they have a lunch counter at the drug store, but uh, I've been accustomed to going and getting my drugs and going on about my business. That, I didn't --that didn't bother me.

RW-N: That never made you angry when you were younger?

WH: No, hmm mmm, hmm mmm.

RW-N: You just sort of accepted it as that was the way life is?

WH: At that particular time. Cause my uh, (RW-N: Yeah) my uh, brother always said that uh, he thought there should be something besides just sitting at a lunch counter. That if we had more job opportunity that was what, what he would like to see come 1st.

AB: So the lunch counter wasn't as important to him (RW-N: Uh-huh) as, as jobs and other things (WH: Right, uh-huh) were?

RW-N: And did you share some of that feeling?

WH: Yes, I did (RW-N: Yes).

RW-N: Uh, do you think that, uh, opportunities for black people have gotten better, have improved? Or have things gotten worse?

WH: I don't se -- uh, I don't see any, anything around here where they've improved any. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) In fact, when I go to town anymore, of course, Logan is almost a ghost town anyway, (RW-N: Yes) uh, you, you don't hardly see a black face.

RW-N: So you think black people are moving out in large numbers? (WH: Mmm hmm) How about in a more general way? If you can think of it across the country perhaps, do you think life for black people has gotten better through the Civil Rights Movement or in other ways?

WH: I'm sure it has because, uh, of the, the, uh, it has gotten better. And then the, uh, I think it has gotten better because I was, uh, I don't know. I was never, you know, down in the deep south where they had all the problems. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) I don't think West Virginians. . . Oh, yeah, we did too. We have them too because I've seen those Ku Klux Klan marching when I was a child, a lot.

RW-N: Where was that?

WH: In St. Albans, they marched right there in, in c -- St. Albans, right down through the streets and then they'd go off and burn their crosses.

RW-N: As a child, was that scary to you?

WH: It was scary, mmm hmm. Scary to me, but I used to hear the kids, I, I think that, I think that uh, that brings out the humor in order to, to, to not to be so afraid. It brings out the humor in kids because, uh, they would, some of them would go and just would, would stand on the sides and watch them march through the town. And they, they'd say, "That's so, so, and so, I recognize his shoes." [laughter] Things like that. (RW-N: Uh-huh) (AB: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) "Cause I recognize his shoes. And so and so's limp" [laughter] So it was the uh, . . .

RW-N: But you were, I, but you were sort of saying that, uh, yes, we've had problems in West Virginia, but they may not have, may not have been as bad as some of the deep south (WH: Mmm hmm) where you, where you have never lived.

WH: Right, mmm hmm.

AB: But when you were in places like Ithaca when you went to Cornell, uh, and you came back to West Virginia, did you, uh, feel more restricted after coming back because you'd had the experience in New York?

WH: No, no, cause I maybe I didn't stay away long enough (AB: Mmm hmm) to do that (AB: Mmm hmm) because, uh, I was just mainly there on the campus (AB: Mmm hmm) and the only -- So I didn't, you know I didn't, didn't, didn't feel anything. And, and then too, uh, uh, in, in, uh, I know it. Ithaca has had its problems too in integration cause, uh, I remember the tower, the incident that happened in the tower.

AB: What was that?

WH: Uh, uh, after integration, some, some black guy got up in the tower.

RW-N: What tower is this now?

WH: This is in, at, at the University of uh, at Cornell. (AB: At Cornell?) Mmm hmm. I remember something of that. . .

AB: So as a protest or something he got (WH: Mmm hmm. yes) into so there was something going on, on the campus that he (WH: At that time) that he felt (WH: At that particular time.) was not right. (WH: Mmm hmm) And that was his way of expressing his discontent about it.

RW-N: And was that when you were there?

WH: No, no. That, I said I remember reading about it later, (RW-N: Later, yes.) in the later years. Because when I was there, I don't, in '47 they hadn't started that. Because I knew my sister was in, was, uh, at Tuskegee. Her husband was from Tuskegee. It was at Tuskegee Institute when that was, was going on. (RW-N: Mmm hmm) And my brother uh, uh, she wanted to come home and she didn't have any, she had a, had, she didn't want to leave her car and, uh,

she wanted him to come down and he says, "I will not drive." Said the only, the only way he would go down -- he wasn't catching any train. [chuckles] The only way he'd go down, he'd fly and meet her in Atlanta.

AB: Mmm hmm. So she, she, she wanted him to help her drive (WH: Mmm hmm) and he didn't want to (WH: And bring her family.) expose himself to those things.

WH: Mmm hmm, not, not alone. So, uh, he flew and brought her on. You know, I don't know whether I've been this, like I said, I don't know whether I've been much help to you or not, but you don't have to use this material that I'm telling you about. [chuckles] No way because. . .

RW-N: Well, well, in our project, um, I don't think we set out saying that women had to be one way or the other (WH: Mmm hmm) on, to be interesting. [chuckles] Or rather we said that there are the stories of, um, older black women (WH: Mmm hmm) and we were going to look at teachers. The others are interesting too, but we had to narrow it in some way. (WH: Mmmhmm, mmm hmm) Um, whose lives are worthy of telling about, they don't have to be uh, interesting for any particular reasons, for any other, (WH: Mmm hmm) I mean they're interesting in themselves because you've lived a life during a particular history, a time of this state and because you are a black woman who lived in this state at that time. So yeah, it's, it's been an interesting time to talk to you. What, what's been the happiest time of your life as you look back at it?

WH: I suppose right in at the time when my children were finishing high school and, uh, (RW-N: Uh-huh) and going getting ready to go to college and, especially that they made it and they found uh, uh, found work and they seem to be happy. (RW-N: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm) So this is, uh, just, like I said, now is trying, but I'm still, uh, thankful.

RW-N: You mean now, now as now because of the health problems, (WH: Yes) things have

become a little problematic for you. (WH: Mmm hmm) Uh-huh.

WH: But before then, I was -- a very satisfying life. (RW-N: Uh-huh)

RW-N: Are there things that we have not discussed that, that you may have written down there on your piece of paper [chuckles] or things that you wanted (WH: Oh) to bring up that we've somehow not gotten to?

WH: Mmm, I, oh, this was, this was on, on here that, that my, we had good family relations. . . I think I, I think we've discussed all of that.

RW-N: You're talking about your own -- um. . .

WH: In my own family, my, uh, and that.

RW-N: It seems to me when you talk about your, um, with your brothers and sisters that there was a lot of helping of each other (WH: Yes, we had. . .) and support going on. (WH: Mmm hmm) Do you feel that there was, um, a certain amount of affection involved in that? Let, let me make it a little bit clear. Sometimes I see families help each other out because they think it's their duty (WH: Mmm hmm), they have to do it. Um, other times families help each other because it may be their duty, but there's also a lot of affection (WH: Right, mmm hmm) involved in it.

Where do you think your earlier family might be along that?

WH: I think it was affection too because, because they'd stand up for you in a minute, you know. (RW-N: Uh-huh, uh-huh) Things, and, and then, too, we uh, uh. . . Large families --the -- have a unique way of, of -- we didn't, we didn't, we didn't go to, like I said, for parties and things like that, but we had our own entertainment, we did.

RW-N: Within your family? Um hmm.

WH: Uh-huh. My father was, there was always a piano in the family and, uh, I mentioned that

Ahmed taught the girls, all except me, piano lessons. (AB: Mmm hmm) My mother couldn't afford to -- the -- me right then.

RW-N: Now this was a cousin? (WH: Uh-huh) And this was in St. Albans. (WH: Yes) Uh-huh, uh-huh.

WH: So we always had a piano and he, he loved to sing. [chuckles] He used to get us around the piano and we'd sing hymns and things like that. We had a, we had a fairly interesting, uh, family life.

RW-N: Do you see yourself as more kind of family oriented rather than socially oriented in the larger social world? It seems like you did go to different organizations having to do with your sorority and your teaching professional clubs.

WH: Mmm hmm, well, of, in vocational home economics I, we had quite a, had quite an experience because, uh, I, I went to, uh, took, took a group to Virginia State, uh, I had 2, uh, they were, they were officers. That was an interesting thing too. When I was a vocational teacher, I noticed that uh, you know, they had these blocks and if you had, if you had uh, . . . Say if you had a song leader, a state song leader this year that, that, I mean, the next, uh, you weren't eligible for whatever's up here next year. They had it going around and I noticed that every time that it was time for us to be, to have a, a state president, or state secretary, we were left out. There was something there for a song leader and so I, I told my group. I said now, I said, "We're not going, we don't have any song leaders today." I said, "Now we're going to this meeting, but we aren't having song leaders."

RW-N: Now this is your West Virginia group, is that what you're saying? (WH: Group, mmm hmm) So you thought you were being bypassed in roles of leadership.

AB: Is this at Aracoma when it was a black school?

WH: Mmm hmm, and uh, so we had a, we had a regional meeting at the school. And I said, "Now remember," I says, "now we, we aren't going out for any office. We don't have anybody." So we skipped it. So uh, then we went to Montgomery, and a lady, they said that they didn't have any, any group for singer, for song leaders and I had told my girls, I said, "Now we aren't song leaders. No, we're not going to be song leaders this year." And so one little girl said, "I will." (RW-N: Uh) And the principal was, the principal was there. He'd, he carried some in his car too, you know. And uh, I, I, I said uh, I said, "Just a minute." I said, "We don't have any song leaders this time. We don't have an office." So the next year rolled around and West Virginia State brought their, with the teacher training, they brought their teacher trainer and the girl there to uh, to West, we went, we had the meeting at Aracoma High School, brought her there to be state president. See, that's what I was looking for. (AB: Mmm hmm) And uh, so when we had our meeting, she, they, uh, uh, said that, uh, she was going to be the state president. And I said, "Well, I don't think that that was necessary because you all had this -- something last year." And I said, "We didn't have . . ." "Well, uh," she, she told the truth. She brought her there because she didn't think that uh, we had the caliber of children to be the state president because, uh, you know, I guess, I don't know why she selected that. I think one reason was because this girl was down there at Institute and they wanted to make a good showing; so, uh, I, I, uh, asked what qualifications did you have to have and she, uh, -- she, you -- they had to be a good student and I had several, uh, honor roll, honor society students and to my reasoning I don't know you've heard anything of them -- they always took valedictorian. So, uh, when I got ready to, uh, and I had, had one of the ladies, our club mother. We went down to get our little service

together. We were serving them. And I, and I said, "Are you all going to let them take this away from us this time?" And I said, I said, "Did you hear what she said? That you all aren't capable." And uh, the mother di -- said, oh, -- And I said, "I'm going to be disappointed if you go" -- I said, "All of you are honor society students and you're going to say that you can't measure up?" So, uh, when, when time came to -- for the next discussion. They were on her. [Chuckles] They were ready. Shoot. That's when I took those girls to, to Virginia State and the next year I had a group that went to, uh, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. That's where the, uh, national was. (AB: Mmm hmm, mmm hmm.) Dorothy Hairston, (AB: Mmm hmm, mm hmm) you know ..

AB: Now as I understand this, this was not a racial matter because these were all black (WH: yes, uhn hunh) uh, students.

WH: They were all black students.

AB: It was prejudice against Logan County students.

WH: Against -- right. So that happens within groups.

END OF INTERVIEWS