

Tiffani Daniels:

Today is Thursday, December the 8th, 2022. I'm Tiffani Daniels. I'm here with Ms. Anne that I call her and Dr. Kelli Johnson from Marshall University. We're conducting the oral history interview as a part of the National Park Service African American History and Appalachian Grant Program, focusing on Civil Rights history. Okay. Ms. Anne, thank you. And what I'm going to have you do first is state your full name.

Anna Louise Banks:

My name is Anna Louise Banks, but everybody knows me as Anne.

Tiffani Daniels:

What's your birthday?

Anna Louise Banks:

Eight-

Tiffani Daniels:

And where were born?

Anna Louise Banks:

I was born in Richmond, Virginia. Came here to Huntington when I was three. And-

Tiffani Daniels:

Your birthday.

Anna Louise Banks:

My birthday is 8/14/45.

Tiffani Daniels:

All right. Now, tell me a little bit about your family.

Anna Louise Banks:

Mostly my mother, and my grandmother, and all, they all originated from Logan. We, by way of our fathers working in the coal mine... Me and my sister, Jo, we were the last to move out of Logan with my mom and dad to Tremont, Virginia. It's a little town right outside of Richmond. Then we came here. I was three and my sister, Jo, was four. It's nine of us all together-

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

I have two siblings that's already passed away. But my dad worked in the coal mine, and we came here.

Tiffani Daniels:

In Logan?

Anna Louise Banks:

In Logan, West Virginia. And my mom-

Tiffani Daniels:

Just elaborate a little on your childhood.

Anna Louise Banks:

In my childhood?

Tiffani Daniels:

Mm-hmm. Growing up, your father being in the-

Anna Louise Banks:

We grew up here. I've been in Huntington since I was three or four years old. It was a lot going on for us back then. Up on 19th Street is where I live right today. That's where all of my friends and all of us originated from, Pastor Hill, his family, the Rushes, the Woods, the Gunns. We had quite a big family up at... It was just like family when we grew up. All of our friends, we all originated right there on that corner and-

Tiffani Daniels:

Close-knit neighborhood.

Anna Louise Banks:

Close-knit neighborhood. Nobody was bigger or better or whatever. It was just like family taking care of family. That's the way we were. We had a tag ball and everything, but our biggest thing about growing up on 19th Street, we could always go to the Scott Center. That's where everybody went, everybody as you got older, but even after school, we always went to the Scott Center. I noticed years back when we were going to school, Barnett, we always on Wednesday went to 16th Street Baptist Church Vacation-

Tiffani Daniels:

Vacation Bible School.

Anna Louise Banks:

They don't do that no more. They don't do it. I mean, the things that we did that was... How am I going to say that?

Tiffani Daniels:

Entertained?

Anna Louise Banks:

Well, it's not as much as entertained. It was just like nobody got in trouble.

Tiffani Daniels:

Okay. Y'all had stuff to do.

Anna Louise Banks:

We had things to do. At Scott Center, we had all kind of programs you could get into. I'll never forget the year when I joined the Brownies. I thought that was highlight of my life, being in the...

Then we had the CDIC. That was a dance class that used to be over to the old American Legion on 10th Avenue. They had American Legion over there, and we used to practice over there. The girl that taught that was Veta Box when we was there because she taught tap and ballet. It was fine. They had recitals and everything. I tell you what. When growing up and you had... Nobody was rich. Nobody had-

Tiffani Daniels:

But you don't realize that you're struggling until you get out.

Anna Louise Banks:

I know. Until I see it today. We didn't. I mean, and the highlight of another part of my life was getting that Christmas tree. Everybody had Christmas tree, whether you had nothing but one thing under it or not. It was just so much fun, and just seeing the joy of waking up, seeing that Christmas tree. We had more fun doing that and then growing up with your friends, and your peers, and everything. It was just great and-

Tiffani Daniels:

Did y'all have real Christmas trees?

Anna Louise Banks:

Real. Everybody had real Christmas trees. Then I look at it today where young people just don't go to church anymore. My mama used to tell us as we got older, 15, 16 years old, she said, "If you can go to a party, if you can go to a dance, you can get..." And she made us get up. We had to get up and be in... I'll never forget where we was. We grew up in a little old church called Shiloh Baptist Church under Rev Matty Nelson. I still miss that church today.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, I'm sure.

Anna Louise Banks:

But young people just don't go to church anymore. Churches were full. I remember going out with... I would always ask my mom because my best friend, Sheila Hawkins, and I used to go right over here at Young's Chapel, and I would go to Sunday school with her. Then my mama says, "As long as I see you when I come in that door at Shiloh, you..."

Tiffani Daniels:

So you can go wherever you want, but you be where you supposed to.

Anna Louise Banks:

We grew up in church. We grew up in church.

Tiffani Daniels:

Yeah, we did too.

Anna Louise Banks:

Then going to school other than Barnett, and then when Douglas closed in '62, then we had to walk-

Tiffani Daniels:

To Huntington High?

Anna Louise Banks:

... to Huntington High from-

Tiffani Daniels:

Wow. Okay. We going to get into that now. The civil rights era was about the '50s, '60s, and '70. So give me maybe a couple recollections from that time.

Anna Louise Banks:

When they had picketed the White Pantry, my sister was one of those, Josephine. We call her Jo. When we wanted to go to the movies and everything, we had to go upstairs. We couldn't sit downstairs with the white. We had to sit upstairs. When they had the walk up... when they picket White Pantry, my sister... I never forget them throwing stuff on her, sitting at the counter. Then when they had the march when they all went to DC, my sister was in that march.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow. Okay.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, she was in that march because-

Tiffani Daniels:

What was her last name?

Anna Louise Banks:

Josephine Banks. She's a Johnson now, and she's in a nursing home now. Yeah, she marched up there. She went to DC. Yeah, Bill Carter was over that when we was down at the White Pantry. I don't think was there any other one that we couldn't go to that we could go in, but they wasn't too particular wanting the Blacks in there. That was the only one that I can know of that they had, the walk picketed the White Pantry. I don't know of any other now back when I was growing up.

Tiffani Daniels:

So you said you went to Barnett?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm.

Tiffani Daniels:

Okay. So tell me a little bit about Barnett.

Anna Louise Banks:

Barnett?

Tiffani Daniels:

Yeah.

Anna Louise Banks:

Barnett all Black kids. It was just a home away from home. Them teachers was strict. They wasn't strict, but they made you mind.

Tiffani Daniels:

They were all Black teachers?

Anna Louise Banks:

All Black teachers. Yes, they were. Well, I can't recall any white going there.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

It was from kindergarten to sixth grade. The biggest thing I remember about them, they had some good food. They had some good... Them cooks, I'll never forget them. I know one. That was Ms. Edna Davis. She was Ms. Davis. She was one of the cooks. You got a good meal over there in-

Tiffani Daniels:

Then you went from there to Douglas?

Anna Louise Banks:

Douglas and then on to-

Tiffani Daniels:

So when they switched over, you were in the mix of that, right?

Anna Louise Banks:

In every-

Tiffani Daniels:

You were in Douglas when they shut Douglas down?

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah.

Tiffani Daniels:

So tell me about that time-

Anna Louise Banks:

Well, that's because they-

Tiffani Daniels:

... and what you remember.

Anna Louise Banks:

Well, but I can remember they shut that down because as... I think it was Wade Michael's mom. I know Ms. Gray used to say we could get a better learning. They wanted the Black kids to get a better learning, but you wouldn't have gotten a better learning from Douglas High School because they had strong, good teachers. They were good. Really, I can't even...

Tiffani Daniels:

You remember any of your teachers?

Anna Louise Banks:

I remember when they marched to the Board of Education over it when they shut Douglas down.

Tiffani Daniels:

So some people protested and shit? They didn't Douglas shut down?

Anna Louise Banks:

They walked to Douglas. They really didn't want to shut it down, but they shut it down anyway. Then all the Blacks had to walk to Huntington High School, and it was a fiasco. It was a mess.

Tiffani Daniels:

Did y'all get picked on when you was walking?

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, shot. Oh, they called us everything, but they-

Tiffani Daniels:

The child of God.

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm. They called us names and everything when we went down there, but-

Speaker 3:

Mrs. Banks?

Anna Louise Banks:

Who is that? But that's everything when we went down there. It was horrible. After, it started middling out because the white kids were on the front of the school because they had a little hangout across the street. We were on this side right here.

Tiffani Daniels:

9th Avenue's side.

Anna Louise Banks:

9th Avenue's side. It was so sad that we had to go there, but really, it wasn't nothing that young people could do about it. It was up to the elders one to either say yay or nay, but they shut the doors.

Tiffani Daniels:

There wasn't anything you can do about it.

Anna Louise Banks:

There wasn't nothing we could do about it.

Tiffani Daniels:

When did you first vote, and do you remember anybody organizing around voting or anything like that?

Anna Louise Banks:

When did I first vote? Jesus Christ, I'm 77 now.

Tiffani Daniels:

Did you get to vote for president when you were 18? Did you get to vote?

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, yes.

Tiffani Daniels:

Did you?

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, they encouraged us. In church, Reverend Nelson and them always told us if we don't do nothing else, vote. He made sure that the young people that was turning 18 or coming out of high school or whatever... he made sure that we... I idolized Pastor Nelson because he really taught us the value of it.

They're talking to me. He taught us the value of a dollar. He said, "Always work for what you want." He taught us that, and that's, I guess, why I work right today, but not now, but all the years I did. He taught us that. I'm trying to remember. I remember voting. I've been voting all my life ever since I turned 18.

Tiffani Daniels:

So did people organize around voting, like the-

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, yeah. I'll never forget when my mother told us about going to vote. I remember the year when President Eisenhower was going to be running for president. The people would come, and they would sell booze, liquor to get that vote. Yeah.

Tiffani Daniels:

Wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

And talk against the person that you were going to vote for and everything. Yeah. But I'm trying to think. Where did my mom and them go to vote at? At the Scott Center? It might have been Scott Center because I know we had to stay up in our precinct. It might have been Scott Center.

I guess that's why all of us are Democrats because my mom, she was strong on being a Democrat. I think just before my mom died, that's when President... I remember when Eisenhower came through here on the train. Now, he was going somewhere. Yeah, he was on the train.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yes, and we could see it. All we had to do is... because that's where we were living at. We lived a little ways up, and mom saw it. Mom hollered, "Get up, y'all. Get up, y'all." Said, "Here comes the train and the president is going to be in there, President Eisenhower." That's when he had passed away, and a train was coming. They had it where you could see it lit up, and you could-

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yes, it was something to see. But the highlight of my mom's life was when we... What was his name? I'm trying to think of the president that my... He was here in Huntington down at the train station.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

What was his name? President dah, nah, dah, dah.

Tiffani Daniels:

Was it before Eisenhower or after-

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, way after. I'm trying to think. Clinton. That's his name. He was down at the train station. We drove mom down. This white man told me. He said, "Do you want to push..." asked, "Is there any way we could..." Now, we had rented a wheelchair, and we took her. She was so thrilled because she got to sit right in the front. This white man took my mom and wheeled her right on up. I said, "Hold on. I'm going too." So just to-

Tiffani Daniels:

We are together, yes.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, me, and May, and my mom, and May's girls, we were all down there when he came. He was running for president. Bill Clinton was.

Tiffani Daniels:

I remember that.

Anna Louise Banks:

He was so good-looking. He was a good-looking president.

Tiffani Daniels:

I remember when he came here. Okay. So do you remember any specific events around town during the civil rights time that had to do with civil rights, like marches or anything other than-

Anna Louise Banks:

Any marches?

Tiffani Daniels:

Anything, any events around here. I know you spoke of your sister sitting in.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, she was in that. Yeah, and-

Tiffani Daniels:

Is there anything else, or just the sit-ins?

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, she was in that because that's when they had... Yeah, we did that. We were in that, the sit-ins.

Tiffani Daniels:

At White's Pantry?

Anna Louise Banks:

White Pantry.

Tiffani Daniels:

Where was that at?

Anna Louise Banks:

It was right there on the corner. It was on one of them corners right there in town.

Tiffani Daniels:

Was it close to Bailey's?

Anna Louise Banks:

Bailey's was another one.

Tiffani Daniels:

Y'all couldn't go in Bailey's either?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-mm. We picketed White Pantry, Bailey's, and... I said White Pantry was the one. White Pantry, Bailey's, and which one was that one that my sister... She sat at the bar with Bill Carter now. And I'm trying to think. There's a march on something that everybody... I remember some of the guys, a lot of the young guys marched in something that they had here. What was that? No. Okay, that was when they was getting ready to close Douglas High School, and they was marching up there, but it was something.

Tiffani Daniels:

Where did they march to then for the-

Anna Louise Banks:

Board of Education.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh. Did they march from Douglas to the Board of Education?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

They marched, yeah.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, wow.

Anna Louise Banks:

It was something else.

Tiffani Daniels:

Were there any boycotts of schools or businesses other than the White's Pantry, like transportation? Did anybody boycott the bus?

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, yeah, the bus drive. That was the biggest thing here in Huntington. When they stopped them buses, that was... I had just gotten a job where they had called me to come and fill out the application to get the job at the Huntington State Hospital. I did not have no transportation because the buses was on strike. They called me to come to St. Mary's, and I just stayed there. I said, "I'm not going anywhere else because I don't have a car." It was the longest strike. I don't know how... if I didn't remember that.

Tiffani Daniels:

And how did you get your news, your local news?

Anna Louise Banks:

Local? Oh.

Tiffani Daniels:

Was there a newspaper?

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, Harold Dispatch.

Tiffani Daniels:

Is that the only one?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm. They were big back then in that day, but now I think the paper ain't no bigger than that right there.

Tiffani Daniels:

Yeah, I was going to say that. Okay. How did you learn about issues involving the civil rights struggle? Did you read the paper or did you just hear word-of-mouth everything?

Anna Louise Banks:

Word-of-mouth.

Tiffani Daniels:

Okay. So y'all just-

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah. A lot of the people has gone there, but see back then, the people were heavy on stuff like that. Then you learn a lot in church.

Tiffani Daniels:

Okay. So you get your news in church. Okay.

Anna Louise Banks:

You get it because even when they write today when they have election and everything, and some of the people that's running Black, they would come to church. The pastors would let them stand up and-

Tiffani Daniels:

Good [inaudible 00:19:28]. That's good.

Anna Louise Banks:

... they'd talk about it and tell us the disadvantages and the advantages of what was going to be happening in everything and how it would help us.

Tiffani Daniels:

Okay. And do you remember the most important people in the community whose names were being... Who were the important people in the community?

Anna Louise Banks:

Whoa. Let's see. Back in the day?

Tiffani Daniels:

During the civil rights.

Anna Louise Banks:

Now, this one man, he was big with kids because that's back in the days when they had summer jobs and everything. This man, Floyd Meadows, he would make sure all them Black kids would get them summer jobs because my sisters and them had them. He was kind of good in the community far as Black is concerned. He was a pusher. He was a motivator.

Tiffani Daniels:

He was good.

Anna Louise Banks:

And a lot of the pastors were. I know Bill Carter was. He was a big pusher here in Huntington. Women-wise...

Tiffani Daniels:

Did you know Bunchie?

Anna Louise Banks:

Bunchie Gray. Mm-hmm.

Tiffani Daniels:

Did you know Bunchie?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm. I went to school with her son. Bunchie, and her sister, and a lot of the organizations back then were good about pushing stuff far as Black is concerned.

Tiffani Daniels:

So you remember being at the NAACP.

Anna Louise Banks:

NAACP.

Tiffani Daniels:

Were you a part of it?

Anna Louise Banks:

No.

Tiffani Daniels:

Was there any other groups like that, organizations like that? Were there any more like that?

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah. Yeah, the NAACP. They had a lot of organizations that... just like city Black because it was long before anybody Black that would work on the city councils and everything. We didn't have nobody down on that to hear...

Tiffani Daniels:

So for us, you're saying?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm. No, they wasn't like it. We had a lot of men's club that would help in this. Back then, the Blacks would help the Blacks. They'd make sure we get to it.

Tiffani Daniels:

So who were national figures during the civil rights? Who all do you remember?

Anna Louise Banks:

Oh, we had Black owners, like Mr. Magda. He had the Black cleaners, and then we had Black barbers. Mr. Perry, Levi Martin were Black owners. There was a grocery store right over here on 9th Avenue. I know they called him, let's see, Mr. Ray and Lagreen. Fact is we had so many of them back in the day, and we didn't have to walk very far. But this right here on the corner, it used to be a grocery store right there. And he's the only white man up in this neighborhood.

Tiffani Daniels:

Davis.

Anna Louise Banks:

Davis.

Dr. Kelli Johnson:

Davis, yeah.

Tiffani Daniels:

He was still there when I was growing up because we used-

Anna Louise Banks:

So you know.

Tiffani Daniels:

... to go there. Okay. So what are some of the differences you might have encountered in school or in public places. When you went to Huntington High, did the teachers treat you differently?

Anna Louise Banks:

They were they all right. It ain't like it is today. My niece, Lakita, came home from California. She just went around seeing everything. When she went out there up on, they call it now up on the hill, Huntington High, she saw all them Black cheerleaders. She called me from down at the school. She said-

Tiffani Daniels:

This was recently?

Anna Louise Banks:

Uh-huh.

Tiffani Daniels:

A lot of people are shocked, yeah.

Anna Louise Banks:

She said, "I don't believe what I'm seeing." I said, "What do you see?" "All Black cheerleaders at Huntington High." I said, "You are kidding me." Well, I didn't know it.

Tiffani Daniels:

My baby cheerleads.

Anna Louise Banks:

I know your... I didn't know it was all them Black.

Tiffani Daniels:

Yeah, there's probably just about two or three white ones now. It's not-

Anna Louise Banks:

Girl, Lakita was just shocked.

Tiffani Daniels:

Because that's how it was when I was going to Huntington High too. We had maybe two Black girls on the team.

Anna Louise Banks:

We had one.

Tiffani Daniels:

See.

Anna Louise Banks:

Then she was on the-

Tiffani Daniels:

Do you remember who was on the-

Anna Louise Banks:

It was Anne Rice.

Tiffani Daniels:

Okay. Was she the first Black cheerleader at Huntington High?

Anna Louise Banks:

She sure was.

Tiffani Daniels:

That's the name I keep hearing. Okay.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yes, she was.

Tiffani Daniels:

That's the name I keep hearing. Okay. And were anybody fighting against segregation?

Anna Louise Banks:

No. Against segregate? They didn't want us down there.

Tiffani Daniels:

They didn't want you down there?

Anna Louise Banks:

No, sir, honey. But I'm going to tell you what did it. Our boys got down there. Oh, they wanted them Blacks in sports.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, football players and basketball players.

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, they wanted them, but they didn't want the rest of us down there. I'll never forget when the football team sat out one year. They just flat down just sat in, and they said, "If you don't get a Black cheerleader here or a Black majorette out there to march, we ain't playing."

Tiffani Daniels:

You remember what year that was?

Anna Louise Banks:

God.

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, that's fine. I mean, that's fine.

Anna Louise Banks:

They said they wasn't going to march. They wasn't going to play. I remember the coach name was Coach Miller. He went to them and struck. He said, "I don't care if they don't [inaudible 00:25:26] dress and stand out there on the floor. You better let them play. You better let them in that."

Tiffani Daniels:

So they get you a cheerleader.

Anna Louise Banks:

They want that. They wanted a majorette and a cheerleader.

Tiffani Daniels:

Well, that's good. So who was the first Black majorette? Do you remember?

Anna Louise Banks:

Anne. She was the majorette.

Tiffani Daniels:

She was the majorette?

Anna Louise Banks:

Anne was the majorette. I don't think it was long before we got a Black cheerleader because... And they really didn't want Anne. They did not want that.

Tiffani Daniels:

So what role did the NAACP play in the community, and do you know who belonged back then to the NAACP

Anna Louise Banks:

NAACP?

Tiffani Daniels:

You remember anybody that belonged to it?

Anna Louise Banks:

I don't know because, see, I didn't... We had a lot of organizations back then, Tiffany, and they were older people when we were coming up. I'm trying to think. I know Cord Floyd. Who was it? Oh, Herb Patterson was president of NAACP. Then it was Cord Floyd. I remember Herb Patterson being president, and I remember Cord Floyd being president and Stevie Ridgeway. Yeah, but they were good in the community. See, that's how we got to learn. People would get help. They knew who to talk to and everything because it was kind of rough coming up, but Black people stood for a reason. They hung together.

Tiffani Daniels:

It was all for one.

Anna Louise Banks:

No, they hung in there together. See, the white people, they always want to rub shoulders with you and everything, but they knew that you could only come so far. It's a whole lot different now.

Tiffani Daniels:

So if you could go back to the '60s, is there anything that you would do differently regarding your actions and attitudes towards civil rights?

Anna Louise Banks:

Civil-

Tiffani Daniels:

Would you change anything?

Anna Louise Banks:

Well, really, I would say it's there. It's just keeping it there. If I had my way about it, I would stay mostly involved to see where... So they can't just keep taking away from us, and the Blacks need to hang in there a little bit more in what they're doing now.

Tiffani Daniels:

Yeah, I feel like they probably were more involved then than now. It's like...

Anna Louise Banks:

I think if we all would just... I mean, we're doing our parts. I'm going to tell you when I went over and volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, and I see all different types of people coming in with their children and everything. I very seldom seen Blacks come in there. They always say, "How come no Blacks ever pass?" It wasn't that you couldn't, but it's just a certain area where if you closer to the hospital, you didn't need to stay at the Ronald McDonald House unless it was a reason why you had to stay there. I learned a lot volunteering over there because of seeing the different people coming in with their children and everything, and I-

Tiffani Daniels:

Because it don't matter what color you are. Sickness is sickness.

Anna Louise Banks:

If your child is sick, you stay there. I seen some Black come in there because I think it's a boundary between Kentucky, and West Virginia, and everything. At least, that's what I was learning from the directors because I hadn't been back since they had the pandemic. Since they had the pandemic, I hadn't been back.

I think that's right when my sister passed away, and one of the instructors came to the church. She said, "Whenever you get it together," said, "We want you to come back and continue volunteering."

Tiffani Daniels:

Oh, [inaudible 00:30:07].

Anna Louise Banks:

It was nice. It's a good facility. But our people, we done come a long ways.

Tiffani Daniels:

Yes, we have. So do you remember when they signed the Civil Rights Act into... Do you remember it being signed into law?

Anna Louise Banks:

Yeah, I remember-

Tiffani Daniels:

What you remember about it? Do you remember people cheering or do you remember just-

Anna Louise Banks:

People were excited about the things that should have been done, but didn't get done. I tell you, it was a eye-opener Obama got to be the president and-

Tiffani Daniels:

I'm sure a lot of people celebrated. A lot of our people celebrated.

Anna Louise Banks:

They did. I didn't sleep at all that night. I stayed up and watched TV. Clinton, Kennedy, and [inaudible 00:31:12] it's just like, yeah, they moved forward the Black as well. When that Civil Rights Bill was signed, it was... I'll tell you who really opened the eyes of people was Martin Luther King. I'll tell you he was something. I went down to Atlanta when my niece lived down there in Georgia.

Tiffani Daniels:

Did you see him speak?

Anna Louise Banks:

Huh?

Tiffani Daniels:

Did you-

Anna Louise Banks:

No. I didn't. He had already died, and we went to church. It's a thing now. They have a place down there that you can go in. I don't know whether it's added on to his church or whatever. We went in to see, and you could see his hat, where he came and put his hat up. We went to his church. You could see inside of the home where you can go in, and you see where he hung his hat, and coat, and everything.

When their bus strike, it was similar to what we had here. It did make a difference. White people suffered, just like they did here because, see, they thought we was going to suffer more. But, see, we were used to walking when we had the...

Tiffani Daniels:

The Black dollar is very, very helpful. They don't realize.

Anna Louise Banks:

And it wasn't nothing because, shoot, we was used to walking downtown, from here on downtown. We was used to that.

Tiffani Daniels:

They wasn't.

Anna Louise Banks:

So they suffered more than what we did. When we went to Atlanta, it was... I mean, it is something to see to go in to visit all of that, what Martin Luther King went through and what he has done. He brought us a long way. He did that march. Now, when they say the March on-

Tiffani Daniels:

You said that's the one your sister went to, the March on Washington.

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm. Uh-huh.

Tiffani Daniels:

Did she tell you anything about it, like how it was when she went?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mostly, she told about... It was about being so many people up there. She says, "Mama, it was something to see, all those..." Then just like the March on Washington and the Million Man March, all of that, but the March on Washington is where my sister then went because Bill Carter and them had a-

Tiffani Daniels:

They organized. Did they organize for people to go up?

Anna Louise Banks:

Mm-hmm. They sure did.

Tiffani Daniels:

Well, that's good.

Anna Louise Banks:

They sure did.

Tiffani Daniels:

Well, Ms. Anne, this is all the questions I had for you. I want to thank you.

Anna Louise Banks:

You're more than welcome.