

Jean Boyd

Pack Memorial. Library, Main Floor

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Karen VanEman (KV): Were you born at home or in a hospital?]

Jean Boyd (JB): I was born at home. Yes I was born at home on Walton St., 25 Walton was my home.

KV: With a midwife?

JB: No, a doctor. The physician's name was Dr. Thompson.

KV: So a doctor would actually do home deliveries?

JB: Matter of fact, he lived two doors down from my mother, grandmother and me. [

KV: Was he African American or white?

JB: He was African American. [

KV: Do you know of any AA doctors at this point?

JB: Dr Holt just passed. Yes, there's Dr. Caldwell over on Charlotte St.; I think he's still practicing. And I think there's also -- I'm not sure if he's an optometrist or an ophthalmologist--on Asheland Ave. And I heard recently that there might be a dentist here now. I've heard but I haven't seen him.

KV: Oh yes, I think I saw an ad in one of our alternative newspapers, but I can't remember his name.

KV: And your spouse's name?

JB: He's deceased. His name was Robert Lee Boyd.

KV: Was he from Asheville?

JB: Yes.

KV: How did you meet?

JB: We went to school together.

KV: Stephens Lee?

JB: No, no, no, St. Anthony's.

KV: Did you go on to Stephens Lee?

JB: Yes. After St. Anthony's of Padua.

KV: Any school after Stephens Lee?

JB: Oh yes, a lot. I got married the first time--my two older children 's father is deceased; he was a Vietnam veteran. I got married in my senior year in h.s., so that left me with not graduating that May with my class. But later on I went through --got my GED through AB Tech. And after that

went on to Montreat-Anderson as a jr. college, and transferred over to Warren Wilson. Oh I didn't go to Warren Wilson, 'til --oh gosh--because after I married Robert, I made a decision at that point that I was not going to work until my youngest child was in school. Because I grew up not having parents at home simply because God took my mother; my mother was . (indiscernible) . . .and my grandmother died when I was nine and a half. And then I had an aunt that had a houseful of children that I just never felt [a part of] yes, overall. So I knew that in my heart of hearts I wanted to be there for my children. And I stayed home until my youngest daughter was in first grade at St. Anthony's. My children went through St. Anthony's.

And then the first inkling of wanting to work--one of the men that was mentioned on the program--you know when Andrea Clark did it--we used, well I called him Mr. Rollin, but his name was Will Rollin--there was a program in this city called "New Careers." When I found out about it, my cousin's wife--there were only two slots left-- we went to apply at the same time because there were two tracks: a health track and early child development. I didn't want to go into the health field, so I took the the route of going into early child development. But at the time they were not hiring You didn't hear the term "early childhood" as much then, but you heard the term "child development." And that's the track I wanted to go in because that's what was in my heart. At that point they weren't hiring, so I was put into a training program that was [indiscernible] .and that was back in 1967-68, that they wanted to put a new face on truant officers. So they changed the title from that to attendance school developers, and that was my first training in working with children and families. So we went through training and all, and the supervisor was Mr. Shuford; I'm sure you have [heard that name]. It was a common name in the city because they were a strong family. And my territory was going south: you know, North Buncombe, the county schools, because he was with the County schools. And at the end of that when they really wanted to select, they could really hire only one to be the permanent person. And I was offered the job. But let me tell you: I've been strong in my own convictions for a long time, and I declined the position because of us being told to take cards and to tell parents who to vote for. And I said, "No way." I was smart enough back then to know that if I sold my soul to the Devil, I could never get it back. Way back then. Oh he was so upset. He said, "Ms Boyd, we really wanted you. You're the top black class member." And I said "Well, I thank you, sir, but I can't take the position." I went right out and got hired by Asheville Child Development Training Program under the Opportunity Corporation, with Emily Lloyd, Dick and . . . who was the other trainer? And I thought I heard the other day It was three wonderful people. And they said they'd been observing me and felt they could really continue training me in the field of parent involvement because I had such a good rapport with parents and children. So I did that.

And at the same time, it was like a part-time position. And at the same time I was hired part-time by Head Start.

KV: You must have found yourself pretty busy.

JB: I did. My husband was very upset, but I knew that I had to do what I had to do. I had to stay home until the kids got into school. He didn't make that much and I felt I needed to earn a salary because the few dollars that were coming to my two older children wasn't enough. And I did know that I've got to work full time to help the family. So pretty soon I was working full time for the supervisor that I had who was a social worker. And she worked for the Family Counseling Center over the Parkway Office Bldg. . And that building is not called Parkway Office Bldg. now. It's at the entrance of --you know where you come across the bridge on Charlotte St.? The brick building to your right going out [of downtown], left coming in--that was Parkway Office Bldg. And that was where my immediate supervisor in social work had her office; but she also worked for Head Start as a consultant. She was the one that asked me if I'd ever thought about going to college. And I said, "I'd love to, but we don't have the money." She said, "That's not what I asked you. I asked you if you'd ever thought about going to college." I said, "Yes!" And because I had been out of school for such a long period of time, that's why I had to go to junior college first and then transfer over. So I did that, and it was one of the best things I think could have ever, ever happened to me. And it was a tough road, a tough road, because I would get up and have to be in class after getting my kids off to school. I was in class in Montreat at 8:00.

KV: No kidding.

JB: I was. And at the same time, for training purposes, the Head Start program was doing child development classes in the evening, so I would come home, get things together. Plus my husband was also a cook, at the time, a chef cook for a restaurant on Merrimon Ave. that was called Chez Paul. It was Chez Paul then. It was right up the street from the Ingles out on Merrimon Ave. It's under a very different name now, but the building's still there. And then he started, later on in life, he was chef-cook at Buck's Restaurant, up until he got a job with the post office, because he also had been in the service.

But going to college was something I knew I had to do because I wanted to be able to communicate with my children on an educational level, and I knew that in order to do that, I had to go to school. And I did. Well, let's see, doing all that, when was it? In 1983, I still was doing college part time, I still had about a semester to go. Well low and behold I left Asheville and moved to Raleigh, because in all that period of time, I went from ground level with Head Start up to becoming the Administrator for Madison and Buncombe County. KV: You have quite an occupational history.

JB: And with that, I knew, in traveling all over the U.S., I knew that in taking my parents' counselor with me, I felt that I had outgrown Asheville in one sense. It wasn't providing me what I needed. So I moved on to Raleigh and finished --you know how every time you transfer you lose credits--I went the last of my sr year in undergrad at Shaw Univ. in Raleigh. And then after I did that, I decided if I was going to ask for a certain salary --

KV: So wait one minute here; did you transfer all your Warren Wilson credits to Shaw or your Shaw credits to Warren Wilson?

JB: No, I wish that I had transferred my last credits back to Warren Wilson, but I didn't have the insight to do that, so I transferred them from Warren Wilson to Shaw to get that one semester. Then I went over to NC Central for grad school.

KV: So you graduated from Shaw in '84?

JB: No, it was '85.

Then I worked in Early Childhood for Shaw; the person who was over the program--my first year I wanted to work--you know work ethics in my family were dominant--so I went to Hudson-Belk, and the person who was over personnel said, "But your work history is in Early Childhood." I said, "I know, but I need a job." And she said, "Well why should I hire you?" So I looked down at her shoes, and she had buckles, and God knows but I don't know where this came--"You know, I could sell you a pair of shoe strings for your buckle shoes." And she said, "Well what do you mean?" I said, "Just what I said." She said, "Well how could you do that?" I said, "Buckles snap off, right? And won't you have holes where the buckles were?" She said, "Yes." "So if you had a pair of shoe strings in your pocket book, you could tie your shoe together with a pretty bow." She said, "You've got the job." So I got the job as assistant manager in Housewares. And at the same time--I didn't know it--they needed someone in Early Childhood at Shaw University-- and the person that interviewed me and had the permission to hire me, she said she had been looking for me. She said that someone told her, "If you want someone good in Early childhood, let me give you a name that you need to know and you need to find her, because I hear she's in Raleigh." And one day my phone rang and she said, "Is this Jean Boyd?" and I said, "It is." And she said, "Well, thank God I have finally found you because I have been looking for you for six months." And I said, "For what?" And I became a traveling instructor in a federal program that Shaw Univ. had, and I taught Head Start people from the mountains to the ocean. In fact I am still. Even during my daily job teaching and going through grad school, in training with our national office for Early Childhood, whereby there was a special credentialing program that is recognized throughout the U.S. Now you'll hear in NC the NC Childcare Credential; it's only good for NC, the NC one is. But the national credential is recognized

throughout the U.S. and abroad. So I do still, in fact I just did a couple Fri., for our national office in Washington, D.C., I go out to do the end evaluation and exams, written and oral exams.

KV: Oh, my goodness!

JB: I think it's important. My later years in Raleigh, I went into the classroom to teach Early Childhood on the college level. I thought it was important for those who were entering into the field to know why they were doing what they do. You can tell me, "Jean, I want you to bake a cake." And I may put all the ingredients in at one time. But you're going to tell me, "No," it goes in steps, and you're going to tell me why that I need to put it in step by step by step.

So I felt that was important. If you're really being allowed to come in and assist parents in helping their children to develop into being good little people, then you need to know why you're doing what you're doing. And when you go through this kind of process, education is good, but on the other side you also know that your own children are going to grow up. And my husband and I separated in the later years of their rearing years, but, but, I think God gave me the wisdom to say, "We're separated, but we're not separate from the children." So we raised those kids together, even tho' he had one location and I had another. And it took the kids a long time to really come to grips with the fact that Daddy tells Momma everything we tell him, and Momma tells Daddy everything we tell her. (laughs) So he and I would laugh about it, because he would call and say, "Does she need some money?" after one of the kids would call him: "Does she need some money; what do you think?" And I would say, Well, I think she really does," and he would go ahead and send it. And I would call him, you know, when one of the kids would come to me with a situation, and say, "Now I want you to call them and talk to them because you know more about what to say to them about THIS situation than any woman." And when I came home, I would stay with some other relatives, but he always would cook; our meals were always at his house. Oh yeah. We still have family reunions every two years with his people.

KV: So did you separate in '83 when you went to Raleigh?

JB: We separated right before.

You know I enjoyed my years in Raleigh. I love being back home. But I left what I considered my home church. My church in Raleigh was very different than the Basilica here. Sacred Heart Cathedral was very warm, a family--it was more family oriented. It was just a closeness we had there. And it's a large church. But our pastors were all I consider to be very good, very open, very warm, very caring. And I go back and forth to visit, because I don't have in this church here what I left in Raleigh. Twenty years of my adult life really made a difference.

KV: And that means leaving a bunch of friends.

JB: I left friends, oh and I still communicate with my friends. Matter of fact. I was just commissioned to make a stole for our current pastor there, whom I still know. Oh yes, they were going to have a black history program and one of my dearest church friends, said, "Well, there's only one person who can do that the way we want it done," and another said, "Well who?" because I don't know the woman who sent me the letter and the fabric to do the sew. She belongs to the Church now, because we had a gospel spiritual choir, and that's not heard of all the time in the Catholic Church. But we had one and it was wonderful!

Really. Can't get it here. Can't get it here.

But at any rate I made the stole and sent it down. And in fact the green was about the color of your shirt. And I trimmed it with gold cording. Those are things you only experience once in life. And when it's good, I just don't think you let go of it. You may have to move away, but you don't let go. And I would never let go of my years at that church. And I'm still there. I tell them whenever I want hugs and kisses I go to Raleigh. In fact, it was such a good feeling when I went down Thanksgiving. And I didn't tell them that I was coming. I just appeared. And our pastor, his name is Jerry Sherber, Father Jerry Sherber. He's very tall, about six feet seven, he was out front. And I parked in the parking lot. And I went up and stood in the vestibule of the Church because I knew he had to come in. He stepped in the doorway and "Aaah!" Now Father Boyd over here, Father Morris Boyd . . . (tape runs out).

(Side two)

There's a family here that probably knows him [a stepbrother] very well, because I think they were related to him. So I went to this young man and asked him about it and he said, "Well who told you about it?" I said it was one of our high school reunions. And I said "O.K." So when I went over to the corner to sit down, he said "Our mother told us not to say anything to you unless you came to us and asked." They had promised their mother that. And neither one of these two guys did. Now I want to interject that while I was at the Opportunity Corp., every time I was awarded something or did something good, so far as the community was concerned, it was written up. I had done several things I was involved in--vice pres. of the YWCA, on the Human Relations board, I was on the Commission on the Status of Women for about 5 years. All that was always written up. Even when I made Director--big write-up. I learned in my later years that the person who was writing this up was a cousin on my dad's side that I never knew. I went to my boss and asked him how all this gets written up, before I really get rooted into something. And he said, "I don't know Ms. Boyd. I guess people are just proud of what you're doing." Never told me who was writing it up. The journalist who was doing it, because he was working for the paper [Asheville Citizen-Times] was Henry Robinson.

Yes, Henry's related to me. And I didn't know it. His brother John is the one who told me, "Your dad went to Stamford, CT, and in about 3 years he met a woman and years they ended up getting married." So I ended up having 2 half-brothers and 3 sisters. We all met in 1999. And they're all very good people. In fact, Madeline works for Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Columbia, SC; my sister Audrey works for the Dept. of Education. and next to her is Tony. Tony is a clinical social worker in Brockton, MA. My brother Bobby, he passed away last Nov., but he was a 30-year vet. The youngest boy Craig is a minister as well as a banker.

KV: So you stayed at 25 Walton St. until the time you were married?

JB: Yes. And then after I got married, the reason why I know the East End is because of my older children's father: I moved to the very house that Jim Abbot and his wife inhabit.

KV: Jim Abbot of St. Matthias? What's the street?

JB: Hildebrand.

KV: What was life like at St. Anthony's? I've heard it named and I know that a lot of what we'd call "successful African Americans" went to it.

JB: Yes, because our church and school was not just for us who were Catholics; it was a school for the community. There were probably more Protestants attending than Catholic children. Some families converted once they started there. The nuns were like most--some were quite warm and others were strict. But in spite of it all, they were all very well educated. And they taught us well. In fact, I have always said the reason why I could go and not do any preparatory work before I got my G.E.D. was that I already knew it before I got to high school. We were that far ahead of them. So it's very warm and dear to our hearts to this very day--those of us who are still here.

KV: Was it integrated? I'm unclear on that.

JB: We didn't have any --there was never any Caucasians who went to school; but our Church was [integrated]. I can remember a couple of families she had a special needs child, one of the families that I remember very well. And they would literally walk over from W. Asheville, over to St. Anthony's.

KV: Was there a parochial school that whites attended?

JB: St. Joan of Arc; it was in existence then. But St. Eugene's was not because it called its school Asheville Catholic School. But it was not in existence then; it was just St. Joan of Arc, as an elementary school. But St. Genevieve's of the Pines was there for, you know, some elementary kids and high.sschool and college. In fact, when I was in 7th and 8th grades, I remember my 7th and 8th grade teacher very well; she was named Sister Mary Eloise. She was the first one to teach us 3-act plays, and we performed for St. Genevieve's as a fundraiser for them.

KV: Something some others have said to me--i'm paraphrasing here--when schools got integrated, and St. Anthony's was closed, and Stephens-Lee was closed, then educational world for African Americans started going down hill.

JB: Let me clarify that for you: when the Bishop closed St. Anthony's, our pastor at the time and some other pastors were trying to get the Bishop to allow St. Anthony's to be a school for grades 1 thru 5, and Joan of Arc for grades 6 - 8 and then go on to Asheville Catholic High. So that would have been a means to integrate without closing anything. But our Bishop, who was Bishop Waters at the time, didn't do that. He just closed us down. Bussed us on over to the Church-- it was St. Lawrence--it was not called the Basilica at the time--he didn't prepare either parish for the merge. He didn't. And the reason why he did that, he had originally wanted to build a new St. Anthony's at the corner of Victoria and Oakland Roads. That was the grounds he had. Yes, because I lived in the house on the corner where it is an office building now; beautiful home--21 rooms. I lived in that house. Next door to that house was a Greek seminary for young men who were going to become priests: St. John Vianney Hall? [trying to remember the name] Million dollar building that was torn down, beautiful building that was torn down. When Bishop Waters closed St. John's at the same time that he shut down Asheville Catholic High; see my son went all the way through in parochial school; he can't talk to you about public school. My oldest girl was a jr. in h.s. when she had to go into public school. My middle daughter went into public school in 8th grade and I tell you she went; and the two younger ones were in 5th and 6th grade when they had to go into public school. I think, when you talk about a breakdown, I think it was because the high school really didn't get the support that it should have received to educate children. We had good teachers; excellent teachers. As a matter of fact, one thing I didn't tell you was before-- and you probably read it in the documentary-- it [the school in the area of Stephens Lee] used to be called Catholic High; my mother went there. Then I understand that there was some trouble at the high school and it was shut down for a while and then reopened; I can't tell you the exact year that it reopened. But there were a lot of things that started taking place, and not necessarily at the high school but within the City as a whole.

I very honestly and truly in fact I have a classmate a very dear friend--she was living in Fresno but she now lives in Atlanta--Doris and I were talking about it just yesterday. I said, "You know, Doris, there are just some things that we were educated, raised, and taught to do that I just can't change. And I guess it's because for one thing, I don't want to change." And she said, "Well, baby, what is that?" I said, "It's a simple thing what I want to say to you. When I give information to someone, and they want a telephone number, I say 'Look in your telephone directory.'" And they say, "Oh, you're talking about the telephone book." I was educated to say

telephone directory. It was just a part of my natural being to say Telephone Directory. Doris laughed; she said, "Oh I know, Baby, we do have a hard time, because while we were at St. Anthony's we knew nothing about racism." The first time I heard that word, to know what it was, was when I entered Stephens Lee. I had never That was not a part of our education. When we used to have to go to the movie theater and had to walk up that little gang plank, it didn't bother me because we had good seats in the balcony and the seats were better in the balcony than sitting downstairs. After I enter Stephens-Lee, I learned that the reason we had to go in THAT entrance was because they wouldn't allow us to go in the front entrance. I didn't know anything about that. I didn't know that we couldn't go to the Imperial Theater. There was a whole lot I had to learn. And I felt that MY world crumbled because I was entering into a world that I was totally unfamiliar with. It was like going from day to night because we didn't live that life. I guess you could say we were very sheltered children at St. Anthony's.

Now it's . . . it's sad to say, but we had people in our own culture that, if you weren't of fair complexion, then you were sort of pushed back. And those of us who were not had just as many talents or more than those who were of fairer complexion. The one thing, and I quit singing with the Mills-Reynold Chorale after I was an adult_ because Mrs. Reynolds died, and I dearly loved her because I was in the Glee Club in high school; in fact was one of the first young girls to sing at--there used to be a store--Ivey's-- used to be where the Haywood Hotel is--every year they would invite Mrs. Reynolds to come and play Christmas Carols and bring the Glee Club. So the first year and the second year I sang "The Lullaby". I had been singing all my life. You didn't tell the nuns . . . [no, I'm not going to . . . There were good things, and there were things again, as I say, you can't wait until children get grown to start training them because before I entered Stephens-Lee [We hadn't heard about racism].

I've never known the ins and outs of it--but the young man who got shot at the school because of an argument was the brother of one of my friends. And we never questioned them about that because when tragedies happened, we didn't go say "What? When? Why? and How? and Who?" We didn't do that. So it was just so, so bad that the City Fathers chose not to support the school. That school should NEVER have closed. And my children were the ones to go into Asheville High, which was Lee Edwards. And the year that my oldest daughter, I think it was Wanda--when she entered then in 11th grade, I think that's the year that the school changed the name from Lee Edwards to Asheville High. But it's, it was because a lot of people in our community had a lot of apathy. I remember the night I went to the school board meeting; it was so depressing to hear the laughter about buying the school for \$1.00 you know. And I kid you not, it was a beautiful school; it never should have been torn down.

KV: The pictures of it from the outside make it look neat.

JB: And it was on the inside. It was not . . . I mean every school needs some repair, but that school never should have been torn down.

KV: So there had been a shooting at the high school and that's what precipitated the discussion?

JB: No, I don't think that did it. I think that was an excuse. I think the main reason is there were white families that did not WANT their children going to a black school.

KV: Even tho' the teachers were superb teachers?

JB: Oh they were superb teachers! Some of the best math teachers, foreign language teachers, were teaching at Stephens Lee. Were very good teachers. I can remember one day in my English class--Mrs. Ruth Carolina--one young boy--he just --as we used to say--he stepped on that verb and just split it so many different ways--she made him stand up and start conjugating that verb from beginning to end. Oh she was the best influence. And there were a lot of us that chuckled coming from St. Anthony's because it was nothing new for us. That was old hat. Half the time had we not gone to school we still would not have made bad grades, because we had it all up here already. We always used to laugh, y'know, because Mrs. Carolina, she was excellent. Mrs. Tolliver in drama was excellent; Mrs. Reynolds in music was excellent; Mr. Fair was excellent. A lot of the teachers--Mrs. Rumley, our biology teacher Mr. Bagley, I mean they were good. They were good people. I think in the black community the one thing we held on to so firmly was to get an education. We saw education as a means, as your stepping stone in life. Even now I was looking in one of the local newspapers, and I was proud to see them reprint the life of Ida B. Wells. And I thought I haven't seen other females for the month of March whom I admire, like Mary McCloud Bethune. All those were good solid strong educators, and that's why so many Black women have been strong and went to college. Her life, and again, I'll say to you like I've said to someone else; I never get but so upset when someone else doesn't tell our story, because it's not for them to tell all the time. It's for US to tell. I think it's our responsibility to tell our story. If you go to Barnes and Noble--there's a writer, i can't remember the author's name. And periodically it's getting to the place now where he's putting more of the Black race in; there's a picture here and a picture there, but it doesn't really tell OUR story.

But I don't get angry with him; I tell my friends, "I don't get angry with him. Because we need to come together and publish and tell our story. You know, you can only be frustrated with us because we don't step up and come together and tell OUR story. That's why I was so proud of Andrea. She did an excellent thing, excellent. And I'm hoping that more is to come from what's she done.

KV: And I wish that that program would go on the road, so to speak, you know, got to W. Asheville, go to Reid Ctr, and I think whites really need to hear that story.

JB: But it took a person such as Andrea; Andrea is a person I knew before I left home, and when I came back I kept asking everybody, "Where is Andrea Clark?" But I didn't know Andrea had talent in photography. She is an excellent weaver for chairs. I heard that she wove a lot of stuff for the Grove Park Inn. Yes, she's a very quiet person, laid back, but just a solid person. She doesn't do a whole lot of hoopla. As they say, what you see is what you get. And that's a solid person. And when she told me about what she had done, she said, "I want you to go see." And I said "I wouldn't miss it." And I came to the Library, and they said it's not going to be until that Sunday.

And I saw a newsletter downstairs on the counter, and said, "Well, may I take this?" So I took it because there are a lot of people in the Black community that remembers here, but to be able to come and visually see, they need to do that because they've lived it.

Mrs. Porter, who spoke, her store was right around the corner from Hildebrand, and I knew her though as a concerned person because her daughter Stephanie and my daughter Wanda went to St. Joan of Arc. So I met her when I was a much younger parent, and have just been friends with her off and on through the years. But there--East End-- my mother-in-law lived in East End. In fact her house was on Lincoln Ave. There's no Lincoln [since "urban renewal"]. There may be a couple little houses; there might be just a short street that bears the name Lincoln. But all of . . . it's in my husband's [family]. His mother lived on that street. He had other cousins that lived on that street. But when I came back home and saw that Pine Street, most of Lincoln was gone, most of Mountain St. was gone; it just looked strange. I still can't . . . [shaking her head]

Another family of people that I was raised up and around and under, Mrs. Haynes, who lived on In fact she told me she was 90 years old; just a lovely person. And I went to school with her children, with her two older daughters. I was down there,[????] the last time was Valentine's was going to be the next date I was scheduled to go, but I couldn't go because I had the flu. So the first week of Feb., that was bad. And after the little program was over she had one of the CNA's help her to come up, and she sat down and said, "I know that young lady." And it was Mrs. Haynes. It was such a joy to see her because she belongs to my church, too, but since she's gotten up in age she doesn't get out as much.

KV: So when you had left town, the City had already started some urban renewal, so to speak, over in the East End?

JB: They had started, but they had not completed, and when I came back and saw what had transpired--Let me tell you, on my side of town, we had a lovely neighborhood; I kid you not, it really was.

KV: Over on the Walton Street neighborhood.

JB: Yes, Walton St. Every --there was not a yard that was not manicured beautifully. It was a neighborhood that cared for its neighborhood. We as a community tried so hard to get them to build single and duplex dwellings where you see the Projects now. They told us that it was too close to the river--it couldn't be done. I kid you not. Then when I came home and I saw the builder beginning to grade land, and do all that, I said, "Why are they doing all that? Why are they grading land?" because at the same time, we used to have a beautiful train station down there. They were tearing the train station down.

And they said they were going to build --well, I thought it was still going to be single dwellings and duplex housing.

Well, the next time I came home to visit, I saw they had built project homes. I thought, "Oh my God!" So they lifted all of the rubbish -- and I know that's a bad way to express it--from East End and dumped it on Walton St. And I don't care what culture it is, be it white, green, black, or purple polka dot, whenever you put people that closely together, you're not going to have too much good coming out of it, because it's just not a healthy way to live. And when I go over there, when I drive through Walton St. now, I'm just shaking my head, because it just destroyed the neighborhood.

They even--and when I left home they told us you couldn't get bus transportation there because Depot Hill was too steep; that's because they didn't want to send the bus up the hill. That's right. But now when they decided let's just put them all on one side, and we'll make it so--I guess-- that a bus goes through now. And it's just shocking now to see a bus because it would have really helped through the years. I can remember having to go to town to take my kids to get clothing and shoes and stuff, we'd have to walk all the way down to the foot of that hill to get a bus, and when we'd come back, we'd walk all the way back up. I'll tell how folk used to do it: they'd walk from--a street which no longer exists--South Side; you'd walk from Depot and South Side up to Lewis St. That was the first incline. Then you'd stop, rest a little bit, get a second wind, and you'd walk all the way up 'til you got to Palmer St. Then that was your second wind. Then you'd take from that and come up to get to Walton.

KV: And with a trail of kids?

JB: Yes. Yes. But it was just so sad to know that's how the City Fathers cared for its people. And I do believe they got embarrassed because there were some uncanny things taking place behind the Court House and all. So they just figured the best way to do it was to just wipe it clean, take out everything we don't want to be behind the Court House, and then we can sit and look out and not feel bad. And it just simply uprooted a lot of folk; and when you really take Home away from

people, then they just don't care about what happens; they don't have a sense of responsibility or nothing.

Now I commended Thelma Porter for what she shared [at the Feb. East End event at Pack Memorial Lib] about her husband's grocery store, but I also told her] "You did not share what you should have shared." And she said, "Well, I'm going to put it in my book." And I said, "You keep talking about writing a book, but Sweetheart, that book will never get written." And as old as Thelma is, it's not going to happen. And she said, "Well, what should I have said?" I said, "You had a children's boutique store at the corner of Mountain and Pine." I said, "When families didn't have the means to come into your store to buy clothing for their children, you filled up the back seat of your car and went to the communities with your children's clothing." She said, "Well I didn't want to take up too much time." I said, "No, but the time you needed to take up, you didn't take. That would have helped everybody know that in later years, black women didn't just become strong. They were strong from Day One. She had a clothing store; she also had a Laundromat. "Those are things you left out that you should have shared." And that would have let folk know-- just like you saw the little boys that were standing in the little alleyways [in one or two of the photos], but they were well-dressed, clean. And they may have been wearing some of Thelma's clothing. That's what she did. And I said, "The group missed out on the fact that you were a survivor, and you were strong way back when."

KV: And also helping other people survive, too, for that matter

JB: Absolutely! Absolutely! And she said, "Well, I didn't think about it." You know she's really a private person. I said [to her], "I wish that you had shared that." And I almost raised my hand [at the program]and said, "Thelma tell them about your store." Because her husband had the little grocery store, but she had the Children's Boutique store. See none of you heard that.

KV: No. We did hear some other different examples of how people helped other people survive.

JB: Oh yes. The one thing I learned--and it just startled me--was when Willie Mae Brown told that they didn't have an indoor toilet. I was taken back. I was so, so shocked. Because I thought, "My goodness. I'm a few years older than Willie Mae, but my grandmother bought a house and I was raised on mahogany furniture with indoor plumbing!"

KV: Oh yes?

JB: Really! That sort of living--you can't imagine how shocked I was to hear that woman tell that she and her family didn't have indoor plumbing.

KV: And your grandmother had been a domestic as I recall. Did she have a husband who was employed as well?

JB: Yes, Grandmother and her husband separated in Greenville, SC, and Grandmother moved to Asheville. I don't know what inspired her to move to Asheville because I was too young to ask. But she did domestic work. And I can tell you the woman she worked for. Her name was Mrs. Hyder. And my grandmother, after my aunt . . . my grandmother came home one week, and my aunt had moved her family into the house, and because the nuns were my sitters; all of my aunt's furniture was on the porch and falling apart, and Grandmother I guess, must have felt that she couldn't deal with all that, no living in the house. So I was left there as a child, but Grandmother came home on Thursdays and Saturdays to make sure that everything was all right--that my clothes were clean and we had whatever. And one particular week Grandmother didn't come home on Thursday, so I asked my aunt who at the time--we didn't have a telephone--"Can I go out to Mrs. McClellan's and call Grandmother?" And she said, "Just leave Mama alone." I said, "I'm not going to bother; it's for a call to say hello." I was in a stage of knowing that she came home Thursdays, and she came on Saturdays and go back on Mondays. So she told me no, I couldn't do it. But I slipped anyway and went to Mrs. McClellan's. Friday and Saturday, Grandmother didn't come. So I asked her again and she said no, don't do it. So I slipped and went out to Mrs. McClellan, and asked her if she would call my grandmother. And Mrs. McClellan said, "Jean, baby, what do you need.?" And I said, "Well, Grandmother didn't come home Thursday, and she still hasn't come home." So she said O.K. So she looked up the number and called Grandmother. Grandmother couldn't come to the phone because she had hurt her back lifting Mr. Hyder, and couldn't get up. And Mrs. Hyder said to me, "Your grandmother is sick." She had not said anything to . . . had not tried to reach my family or nothing, so I told Mrs. McClellan and she said, "Go tell your aunt that your grandmother is sick." So I ran home and I said, "Aunt Katherine Grandma is sick." And she didn't answer me. So I told her again and she still didn't say anything. So then in about 15-20 minutes, Mrs. McClellan came to the house and said, "Katherine, did Jean tell you that your mama's sick?" She says, "Yes." "So when're you going to go see about it?" See in those days, the undertaker was your ambulance.

KV: Oh?

JB: Yes, particularly in our community they served the same purpose. So she made her [Katherine] go to get Mr. Wilkins. Hart's Mortuary used to be owned by Mr. Wilkins. And she went and called Mr. Wilkins; he came, went to W. Asheville and brought Grandmother home. And because medical care was not what it should have been--Grandmother really should have been put in a hospital, but we didn't have a decent one to go to. So Grandmother only lived for about three weeks.

Now that's when my world really fell apart--oh God, yes--because she was my life. I get teary-eyed thinking about it even today. She was my life.

And even the Sunday that I told you that I did that Mother's Day speech, the last sentence in my presentation was, "My grandmother would be proud of me." That's right.

KV: She would indeed; so would your mother.

JB: Yes, Mama would have been, too.

But it's all of those things that I'm sure, if you could hear more personal stories of different ones, you'll see where the whole survival mode kicked in. And we were determined to make it, because even with my children, I learned how to persevere; I learned what stick-to-itiveness was; and I took on in my mind my own personal mascot. In fact in my home I collect them to this day: turtles. Do you remember the story of the tortoise and the hare? KV: Yes.

JB: I'm the turtle.

KV And turtles are real survivors, aren't they?

JB: My friends, if they go away and bring something back to me, that's what they bring back to me from all over. I've got them from China, from Japan, from Mexico--all over.

Some of the smartest individuals in the U.S. [in the way of African. Americans] came right out of this city. Your top attorneys came right out of this city.

KV: And even the people who didn't become attorneys just blow my mind.

JB: Oh yes, your educators, community people, you take Willie Mae Brown -- I respect and admire Willie Mae Brown so very much because she's right in there all the time. Right in there. And no one told her she had to do that. She felt the need to do that. And nothing stops her. And I respect and admire her for that. I just think that those of us who took on our own plight, we decided that we're going to be like eagles.

In fact I used to call myself an eagle even with my own children. I carried them until they could carry themselves. And then I moved out. And if they need me, I'd spread my wings again for them to rest upon, and then I'd pull back out.

And I feel now they're very strong. They too struggle and persevere through a lot of stuff, but they don't stop. They're not supposed to. I don't expect them to. I can truthfully and honestly say I don't ever, ever remember thinking that I was not happy being a mother. And twice over now being a grandmother. And I remember when my oldest grandson was playing a little too much his first year in college, his daddy sat him down and he said, "Boy, not only do you have me and your Mae that's supporting you, but you WILL NOT let your grandmother down." Because Joshua knows that we love him, we support him, we're there for him, and there's no such thing as "I'm not going to make it." Oh, yes you are. Oh yes.

And it's like Blacks have become separatists on this side, and whites have become separatists over here. You hear people say, Oh, there's nothing to do, there's nothing to get involved in, nowhere to go. Well, I'm going to be very honest with you. I don't feel that way. I think the thing that stops me from being involved in some things I'd like to be involved in are economics. Because I am on a fixed income now. And that stops me from doing some of the things I want to do. But it's like, Sunday evening, with my coworker friend (I just closed a little shop I had over on Charlotte St.). Yes, I've had it for a couple of years, but when economics got really bad, foot traffic decreased. I said, O.K., it's now dipping into my livelihood; that doesn't make sense. So I've got to come out of there, but I don't have to stop. So I work my creative business out of my home. It's another phase of my creative self. I make jewelry with semiprecious gems. But what is so sad is--my friend has a business in the same building and she has a school of --a business school of professional ethics that she gets contracts occasionally from maybe a firm that has young people coming in and they want to be taught business etiquette, well Angel will do that. She can get reduced-price tickets through her school if we want to go to, say, something at UNCA student tickets are x,y,z, for student rates. So we all wanted to see the John Brown Quintet. So we all got the tickets through her, and we went Sun. evening to hear the John Brown Quintet.

A lot of folk who aren't on fixed income don't realize \$25 here, \$25 here, \$30 here, that adds up quickly, quickly. But we had a wonderful time. And I tell you, Karen, ever since I became a mother, I guess, some how, some way, I believe very much what the nuns told me, and I believe it to this day --that of who made me, why did He make me, and how did He make me. So if He did that for you, then He did that for me, too. So it doesn't make any of us above the other. We're all equal. And nobody can tell me different.

So therefore, I decided that anything I thought was going to be beneficial to me and/ or to my family, I'm opening that door. And I will forever do that because I think that's why we have what we have: not for some, but for all.

Now the one thing that I really get disturbed about to this very day, and that's our health care system. I would be one, and some tell me, "Oh you don't really want to do that." But yes I do, if it means that every human being would receive the same treatment, I would vote for socialized medicine in a heartbeat because I don't care if you ever need [care] and I [need care], I don't believe that your treatment ought to be better than mine. I don't believe that. And there are so many things . . . and that's why I said we can't sit back and allow those that we think have a "meaningful" vote, vote and we not vote. Ours is just as meaningful as the other. We just need to make sure that who we're casting it on is going to be somebody who will speak for the people.

And you know this is the first time I believe in many a year that I've felt that we really have a chance of getting somebody in who will really bring about a change for ALL, you know. We've had too many people, even though they were celebrities and others who were not, who've gone overseas and lived better and were respected more than in their own country. You know years ago, when Paul Robeson went overseas, that's why he went. You look at Tina Turner, that's why she went. You look at Marian Anderson, that's why she went. I mean, it's awful that you have to leave your own country . . . it's AWFUL that you have to leave your own country.

And the other thing I'm SO tired of is all of these large companies that take their companies and putting [them] in another country, and our people have no jobs. That has got to stop. It's got to stop. That means that, they continue doing this, my grands and my great-grands won't be able to live; they won't be able to continue. There's not going to be anything here for them; you know? We aren't going to have anything here for them. So when I talk about change, that's the kind of change I want to see happen. I want to see it so that --we were talking--you mentioned once about being uprooted--you know those from the East End--you know they're on foreign soil, even tho' they're still in the city, that was foreign soil. Where they had roots are no longer. And I know how that feels, because I'm at the Basilica, but where my roots are is in St. Anthony's. You know that's where you feel like you are a part of. But we slight going through a procedure, and you have to really talk to yourself and say O.K. I know my roots are not here, but Lord I'm here to serve you. And you have to almost every time you go in scrape away all the outer, to put your heart into the center. . . .

KV: Figure out how to get into yourself rather than to be a part of the group, you have to go inside yourself?

JB: Yes, yes. I have some very good friends who are members of the Basilica, and we get along wonderfully well. As I have an old saying that I say to people, I says, "You know I could get along with the Devil in Hell as long as he tells me, O.K. now Jean, the fire's over here, but you need . . . to stay over here, and I'll say, 'All right, I'll be right over here.'" How do I best say this? You can't carry hate from the past into the future. Sure I disliked knowing that my great great grandmother was a slave. I hate that thought.

I don't know if she was one of those that they treated kindly or mean. I have no knowledge of that. But I hate the fact that she was not free. So I don't forget it, but I don't bring hate from that thought. I just want to make sure that whenever you are here, you're not going to enslave me or mine. And I'll be strong that way. Because when really you sit down and be very honest, people were being enslaved from both sides, from Caucasians and from the African side. So we don't, I don't know, and if I'm wrong somebody should tell me, I don't ever remember hearing someone

say, "We hate Romanians or Nigerians or da, da, da for their chiefs' selling and enslaving our people." Have you ever heard that? I haven't. If you hear that, let me know. So if I'm going to hate one, I ought to hate the other. All I want everybody to realize is that I'm a human being that God created equal. We both are created equal. I think respect needs to go both ways.

And when someone commits a heinous crime. I just [wish] it was some way that we the people could say don't use our taxpayer money on a trial. When they do heinous things? No, no. They're past being human. It's a waste of time. Look at Jeffrey Dahmer. You know how much money it's took to keep that man in prison? Much more than should ever have been taken out of taxpayer money. All all these other crazy people of that nature. They need to feel what they've done to another human being. Honestly I think they need to wear balls and chains. I really do. I may be wrong, but when they get to that level of inhumane crime, they have more in prison than we have out here. They have exercise rooms, they have television, they get three squares a day, they don't even have to wash their own clothes. I mean really. Those, and when they get sick, they get taken care of. And they gotten so smart they go to law school and sue the state for not getting proper diet. And we're out here trying to take comp payments to eat from Sunday to Sunday. Now is that fair?

KV: It doesn't sound fair.

JB: Not to me, it doesn't.

Let's get back to one other thing. I believe in remembering all those who' who've done great before us. I don't think we should ever lose sight of that because they paved the way. But I think young people today should have heroes who are closer to their age, so that they can be able to see and feel and understand. What I'm saying by that is when we talk about these back here, we need to talk about these [who are here] as well. So that they can see it. Let's just say Andrea [Clark]. She brought to this city something that's not ever been done to my knowledge before. But she brought it to say, "I remember when" They can identify with that. They could say, "I used to live there." "Man, I remember standing on that corner." "Yes, I remember that store." And when Feldman's daughter stood up, everybody remembered Mr. Feldman. There was another little store, and I know that in Andrea's photos, she's bound to have a picture of Mr. Chisholm's store on Grail St. It wasn't discussed because there wasn't a member of Mr. Chisholm's family there on Sunday last, but Mr. Chisholm's store was the main store where all of us in High School [went]; we didn't have a lot of money to buy lunch out of the cafeteria, but we'd put our pennies together, and one person would go to Mr. Chisholm's store and buy liver cheese, saltine crackers, and a couple of sodas. And those of us who pitched in, we had enough to divide to have lunch. See now we will always remember Mr. Feldman; we will always remember Mr. Chisholm. And

that's what I mean by heroes. Heroes need to be with the younger group that we need to get back in and redirect. They need to have heroes they can identify with. They hear us talk about, do you think they understand who Thurgood Marshall is? No.

KV: Maybe not.

JB: It has to be someone they know. Now I will tell you, a few years down the road, we don't know now who's going to win the Democratic nomination: but either way, you can believe they'll remember Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. They can identify with that. We put too much for lack of a better term, [emphasis on] an old legend than current legends. You see we don't keep up with our youth. We're saying, "Well, you don't remember this, but let me tell you about it."

They've got to be able to identify with it.

One thing I remember, being a Girl Scout myself, but I also remember being vice president of a Girl Scout Council. And I remember those little girls. They always wanted to have something they could remember doing, you know? 'Cause I still talk about things I learned when I was a Girl Scout. Maybe that was my first taste of creativity. I don't know. KV: First taste of salesmanship, that's for sure.

JB: My little granddaughter, when she sells her cookies, my son said he and Alanna will deliver the last of the cookies this week, and she's made over \$2,000 herself in sales, and she's very proud of that. Those are the things we just don't do for our youth today. And I guess I feel honored to have the opportunity one more time to be part of the lives of someone else to bring information in that I feel will be healthy rather than unhealthy. Working in early childhood was always a healthy thing for me, and I appreciated families allowing me to be a part of their lives. And I was an intricate part of their lives. In fact I was in Wal-Mart one day, and I have a very strong sense of intuition, and I could just sense someone looking at me. from some angle. So I just stopped and started looking around. I didn't know where this person was, but I could sense them. And when I turned to my left, there stood one of my parents from the '80's. With her hand on her hip. And she said, "I was just wondering when you were going to turn around and see me." Her name was Esther Wright. And I said, "Esther, I could sense you but I didn't see you." And she said, "I wasn't going anywhere. I'd heard that you were back and if you do anything, or there's anything you need, you just let me know." So those are the kind of folk I say I appreciate and I'm glad to have been a part of them. I have a book this big that I've kept with my life with the families I've worked with and their children.

JB It's this big. I'd share it with you some time if you'd like to see it.

KV: Oh I would.

JB: When I first went into Madison County, they were very afraid for me because I'm black. They said, "Aren't you afraid to go?" I said, "Oh no." They said, "Why? They don't like Black people." I said, "Well, I'm taking a service to them and I'm not bringing anything out." And I went in and I had not one iota of a problem. In fact, one grandmother who was one of my Policy Council chairs, I took her all over the United States when we had Parent meetings. One of the meetings was in Denver, CO. Her first name was Joan Boyd. Mine was Jean Boyd. And they canceled one of the two hotel rooms we had reserved. They said 'you had your name on two rooms.' I said, "No I didn't. I had Jean Boyd on one and Joan Boyd on the other. They said, "Let me look again." I said "She's standing right here."

But it was that caliber of families that truly appreciated the help that was being given to them for their families. And they knew if it could be gotten I would get it.

KV: And a parent would really appreciate knowing that.

JB: Oh yes. Absolutely. And she was originally from England, and didn't have any idea of what she was getting into.

KV: Coming to Madison County?

JB: Yes, yes. But she was a lovely person. In fact in my house right now, I have a king-sized quilt that she embroidered for me, with a pansy in each of the squares that she embroidered.

KV: What else can you remember about the neighborhood in which you grew up?

JB: . . . in the neighborhood where I grew up in, was Mr. Angel's store, Mr. Owens' grocery; Mr. Owens was a very good friend of my grandmother's. I'm trying to think if I'm missing any. When Willie Mae [Brown] was talking about the coal yard [at the Pack Library program], and I can tell you about another phase of people staying warm with coal, and that was when people didn't have money to buy a sack of coal, but they still had that sack that the coal was delivered in. Members of their family, when a freight train came in that had coal on it and the coal would spill over, they took those sacks and went down there, picked up coal and brought it home to their families. On Willie Mae's side of town they probably didn't have them, but on my side of town they did.

KV: Lawrence Gilliam was telling me about that.

JB: Yes, yes.

So it's so much. And Mr. Cawls. You know Mr. Cawls the grocer. As I said to him on Sunday [at Pack Library's program], you know the only thing that separates the inhabitants of East End and South Side was Biltmore Ave. that divided. You know, once you crossed Biltmore Ave., you'd run into the same. It was the very same.

KV: And Biltmore itself: was it largely white? or what?

JB: Umhum. You know with businesses, and you know St. Joseph's, it wasn't nearly what it is now. And Mission: I'm trying to think: it was not Mission; it [its original] died out. KV: Oh it wasn't Mission?

JB: It became Mission as I became an adult. it was a nursing school.

KV: And grew into a hospital?

JB: Umhum. My father-in-law's business was listed: Dreamland Drive-in. He was the first Black to own a drive-in.

KV: Where?

JB: On McDowell Street. The listing is here in the book. I asked if they had a picture of it and they said no. They told me I could probably look for a picture in the archives at UNCA; they might have a picture of it. Because we as a family don't have a picture of it. And I would like very much for my children to see a picture of it, and my grands. I'm trying to think of another . . . there was another little hot dog business on Choctaw. And I know the kids' aunt--one of my children's aunts by marriage--Jessie now lives on Elizabeth Place, but she worked at Woolworth's for 47 years. In fact my father-in-law cooked at Woolworth's before he moved out-- got a job offer. And her [Jessie's] husband was a janitor there until he died, my kids' uncle.

You know, when I think about it, Karen, my family's full of history in different ways. When I was a young girl, before I got married, I was a bread and butter girl [at the Grove Park Inn] before I got married.

KV: Tell me about a bread and butter girl.

JB: I had to dress like Aunt Jemima. My long dress was green and white gingham with my little yellow apron, and my yellow kerchief--I had to pull all my hair up and tie a bow up here. And I had a bun warmer about this big and it had places where I could slip my thumb in to flip the top and I would go to each table in the dining room.

KV: You're saying it was about a foot and a half high, and what two feet wide?]

JB: No, not that wide, maybe 18 inches wide. And I would go to each table because it was sort of hot bread and ask them if they wanted some bread. I did it the second year--I did it for two summers cause you know that's when you got the jobs up there, when the tourists came in. And I had been working--I was wearing my hair in a page boy with flat bangs--we used to call them Indian bangs. They let me keep my bangs out the first year; near the end of the second year, they told me I had to tie my bangs up as well. And I stood firm, refused to do it, So the head waiter said to me, "Well if you won't do it, then you can't continue to work here." I untied my apron and handed it to him, went downstairs, took my dress off and left.

KV: What was the pay like?

JB: Pennies. It wasn't much. Because we were like, what was it? \$1.15 an hour. It was so interesting--I came home to visit one summer from Raleigh and had a church friend from down there who wanted to come to Asheville. So I brought her. And said I want to take you to the Village, because at that time that was the most interesting thing to see--because [rehabing] the Grove Arcade was not finished. So I took her down there, and we were in one of the little shops. And one of the shop owners said, "Oh you need to show her this [the Grove Park Inn]--it's one of the finest places we have." So I stood back and let him go through all of his ritual, telling her about the Grove Park Inn and the long view. I didn't know if he knew any history about it. So I said, "You see that right there? [pointing to a place in the picture he was showing her friend] I used to work in that dining room. I was a Bread and Butter girl." He said, "What? Then you're history." I said "Yes, I am." [laughter]

In fact my aunt, you probably have not heard anything about the Manor, M-A-N-O-R. Well, that was the second nicest of all places for people to come. My aunt was a waitress in the dining room there.

KV: Is your aunt still alive?

JB: She is. In fact she's living in Detroit.

KV: How did she end up there?

JB : She decided in 1961 that she was going to go, and by that time, the youngest boy was in college, and it was just her and her youngest daughter. So she decided she was going to move to Detroit, MI. and that's what she did. I didn't want to leave Asheville because I felt that Detroit was not a city I wanted to raise my children in. I wanted to stay here where I thought I would have a better handle on raising them the way I wanted to to help them grow up. So all my friends who migrated . . .(inaudible)

Plus we had the oldest member of my family at the time was still living here, and I was very close to her, and I just could not see leaving her here and leaving her on the State and with other people. And I couldn't do that . So I ended up being her guardian.

KV: Bless your heart.

JB: And I was proud to do that, because she had been a sweetheart to me.

Same Date:

Downstairs, auditorium at Pack, where photos by Andrea Clark of East End were on display, featured in the "Twilight of a Neighborhood" program in February

KV: Where do you think this one is? On which side of Valley Street?

JB: It had to be between Feldman's and you know where the Water Dept. is? It had to have been right in that area.

JB: This chicken here: I told Rob Amberg on Sunday-- Rob is the person who used to do photography of my preschool children. He's excellent for photography. And he got famous for his photography. He took a picture of a rooster in Madison County.

KV: He's the one who's done a couple of books. Great photography in those.

KV: This has a parking meter in front.

JB: We didn't have parking meters like that, so maybe it was done in later years. There were double doors like this on the front of Wilkins Funeral Home, which was right there on Eagle Street. He had double doors on his Funeral Home. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if that's his Funeral Home. That ended up being the Black Library.

KV: Oh yes?

JB: Mrs. Herring was the librarian there.

KV: The one whom Herring School was named after? I didn't realize she'd done this.

JB: But it almost looks as if this is a bed.

KV: It does, with someone lying down in it. And this looks like a child's rocking chair.

JB: And that looks like a . . .?

KV: A kid's potty?

JB: No, it's a bed pan

KV: And given the fellow lying in bed, it looks as if he's in the kind of shape that he could need it.

JB: Bread Colonial Good Bread . . . I'm trying to read this sign.

KV: And then that says "Fruits, Vegetables, Groceries, Money orders," and does that say "Self Serve"?

JB: Then that had to have been (indiscernible) at some point. The young man --his mother was my classmate. And I was a friend like . . . she had cancer. I remember visiting her on a regular basis, and I took her to the doctor and stuff like that. Her son has pictures that would add so much. His grandfather owned the open air market, but that's not it because it was really nicer than this and on the Square. I can't picture this on Valley Street. It seems there was a little, some type of little store on Valley St. at the time Feldman's was going down on the right hand side [of Valley] and there was a cross- street next to the Laundromat. But that picture is very . . .
(indiscernible)

I think that was still down on Valley St.

I think those [houses] were around Dirt Eagle.

KV: This looks to me like the same woman Andrea has a shot of upstairs at her screen door.

JB: You know I look at the barrel from her trash can--Eagle St., down that corner is Feldman's. And then going up, Eagle St. goes up here and then it turns dirt. See we don't get the weather like we used to.

KV: I gather that; look at all the snow up here.

JB: Now this is the picture I was talking about [above] where the kids were all beautifully dressed.

KV: They look like they're having fun--glad to be together.

And this is the same spot. with the boys.

JB: Right, with the same girl. [indiscernible--background noise]

I was wondering if this was [indiscernible--background noise] no it wasn't Velvet St. It wasn't a hill [and this picture is of a hill]. It might be the Tuskegee area--Tuskegee and Pine. Look at this little tyke here.

KV: Yeh, right, homemade skateboards or something.

JB: [next photo, portrait of a man] His brother was my husband's best man. In fact I saw him, oh shucks, isn't this awful [trying to think of the subject's name]. I just saw him recently. I'm thinking about where those telephone booths used to be: There used to be one at Feldman's Grocery Store, and one at the Hennesy Funeral Home. Oh shucks. I think that was on Valley St. and the only place I know that I'd seen that much, and it would have been at Mrs. Hennesy's Funeral Home.

KV: He's got really fancy shoes, too.

JB: What do you call them? Poplar shoes. Really expensive shoes.

This photo was right across the street from Feldman's Grocery. Feldman's on this side.

It bothers me that I can't think of his name.

KV: It will come to you when you least expect it.

JB: That's Velvet, no not Velvet, Dirt Eagle. Up Eagle, 'cause there was a little store right there on the corner, and then it goes right on up to the row houses, past the row houses KV: It looks like this truck's doing a delivery.

JB: Sure does.

This house was on Valley St. I don't care what time of day you'd pass her house, she'd be sitting right in that chair. Right down the hill from school. Feldman's would be up this way, up Valley St.

This [photo] is Eagle St., the upper end, because that's the Barry Cab Co. I grew up under Mr. Barry and his wife. They lived on Walton.

KV: When you say the upper end, do you mean closer to Biltmore?

JB: Yes.

Now this looks like it might have been the lower end of Hildebrand, going down to the part that's kind of a dead end. [indiscernible]

KV: He must have been hauling stuff for people, looking at the boxes there.

This photo is a sample of the interior heating.

JB: It's called a Warren heater. You always had a pot of water sitting on it to provide moisture.

[End of tape]