

Mary Sligh

Side 1:

[009] Moved to Asheville, 1933 at 13. Born in Hendersonville 6/12/18. Parents: Lived on Oak Street, Hendersonville; Grandparents: Mother's parents from Bamberg, SC, lived on 7th Ave. W. & Oak St. [Larry Robinson, Olive Jones Robinson]

[059] Three brothers, 2 older, 1 younger. [Larry Houston Robinson, Jones Oliver Robinson, Samuel Robinson]

[080] Parent's occupations: Mother, R.N.; Father, Cook

[087] Mother not allowed to work in hospitals; doctors found private duty for her

[105] Tomboy's life

[137] In Asheville, lived with cousins

[166] Favorite childhood memories

[188] Family car, mother learning to drive

[202] Father's work in boarding houses

[215] Parents from Bamberg, SC.; met and married in Hendersonville

[255] Remembers spankings

[260] Learning to cook and sew

[282] No high school in Hendersonville for them, so moved to Asheville. Brothers went away for school.

[287] Eight children in the house (6 cousins) on Latta St. (#10), then moved to Ridge St.

[316] Mother not allowed to work in hospitals, became "masseur".

{ 326} Graduate, Stephens-Lee, 1935. Jr. College (Bethune Cookman). Stewart's School of Beauty Culture [Stephens-Lee High School, Bethune Cookman Jr. College, Stewart's School of Beauty Culture]

[336] Wanted to become a nurse, dreamed of becoming a missionary, then a nun

[347] Star Bethel Church. [Star Bethel Church]

[350] Reading, reciting, music, piano, school plays

[373] Homesickness at college in Florida (Daytona)

[392] Family history?

[403] Grandmother married twice. Family owned P.O. in Bamberg, S.C.

[429] Belk's on Haywood Street, elevator operator, to Patton Ave.; Married in 1942 at 23 (1941?) She and husband lived on Short St. [Belk's, Gilbert Sligh]

[467] Boyfriend in service

[470] Brother in service

[472] Short St., apt. with father, then purchased home on Olive St., then to Pine Grove Ave.

[479] Four children: 3 girls, 1 boy

[483] Gilbert in service; 9 mos. after marrying. Oldest girl was born. Worked for WNC Mutual; Burgesses cared for Beth. 2nd and 3rd daughters born, then son. [Ada Elizabeth (Bette), Mary Louise, Gail Patricia, Gilbert Sligh, Jr.]

[508] Illness; Dr. said, "You're just worried" - a turning point

[517] Mission Hospital as aide

[526] Gilbert worked at the Plaza and joined the Police Force ('40s) until retirement for disability. Patrolled Eagle St. and Market St. Not supposed to arrest white people, terrible, finally in cruiser

[545] Downtown segregated

[556] Pack Square, "colored" fountains, Doctor's offices, Civic Center, stores

[569] Catholic Schools for children. St. Anthony's, Allen School, all segregated

[578] Children have left Asheville except for youngest because of more opportunities

Side 2:

[2/002] Changes in Asheville schools

[2/026] Lack of skills in segregated schools

[2/040] After desegregation

[2/060] Black teachers, white teachers, resentment

[2/080] Hate groups getting bolder

[2/093] Hopes for the world

[2/107] Values

[2/113] Seven grandchildren (6 boys, 1 girl)

[2/126] Self-expression, volunteer work, cared for aunt [Foster Grandparents, ABCCM]

[2/140] Husband died in 1971

[2/143] She worked in the school system, as an attendance counselor

[2/163] Retired at 62

[2/176] Hill St. Baptist Church. [Hill St. Baptist Church]

[2/188] Turning points, faith, growing