

PREFACE

This manuscript was made possible by a grant from the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. It is the product of tape-recorded interviews conducted by Rev. N. L. McPherson for the Oral History Office during the spring of 1974. LaDonna Monge transcribed the tapes; Kay MacLean audited and edited the transcripts.

Alice Walker Martin, one of nine children, was born February 7, 1889 on her father's farm near Rochester, Illinois. She was educated at the one-room Forest Grove school near Rochester and during her youth spent periods of time in the homes of black Springfieldians. She was later employed as a domestic in the homes of several Springfield families.

In 1917 she married Jess P. Martin; they were the parents of four children, and raised several foster children. For many years Mrs. Martin assisted her husband in the greenhouse of which he was co-owner. A member of the Union Baptist Church, she was active in several church groups. She was a member of Estella Chapter No. 3 of the Order of Eastern Star, and active on the local, state and national levels of the Colored Women's Club. Mrs. Martin died on March 20, 1975, in Springfield, Illinois.

Mrs. Martin's memoir includes reminiscences of her life on the farm and of the rural school and church which she attended. She recalls the Springfield Race Riot of 1908, and her own experiences with racial prejudice, discrimination and segregation. She recounts her involvement in social and civic groups, and political work in Springfield. Mrs. Martin loved to travel and reminisces about her trips in the United States, to Canada and to Europe.

Readers of this oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Working in Springfield	1
Schooling	2
Home life	3
Farming practices	6
Springfield (ca 1900)	7
White - Black relations	8
1908 Race Riot	9
Moving to Springfield	13
Marriage	14
The greenhouse business	15
Travels	18
Women's Organizations	21
Segregation	23
Springfield Colored Women's Club	24
Depression days	28
Springfield's non-industrial bent	30
Black professional people	31
Blacks in the labor market	32
Political interests	33
Reaction to discrimination	37
Describing some pictures	44

Mrs. Alice Martin, March 8, 1974, Springfield, Illinois.
Rev. Negil L. McPherson, Interviewer.

Q. Mrs. Martin, were you born in Springfield?

A. No, Rochester vicinity, ten miles southeast of here.

Q. Now, when did you come to Springfield?

A. Well, I lived in Springfield off and on with different folks ever since I was about seven years old.

Q. Could you name some of the places you have lived in Springfield?

A. Well, I stayed with Mrs. Abner Nailer. At that time Mr. Nailer was--- I think he was a cook at the Leland Hotel. She was giving me music lessons and I stayed with them quite a while. Then I stayed with Mrs. Jennie McClain; she lived on North Fifth. Then later on, I think I was about sixteen, I lived with Mrs. and Mr. Duncan---that was Colonel Otis B. Duncan's mother.

Q. Now, is this the colonel that the [American Legion Post is . . .

A. The Illinois 833.

Q. The Legion Post?

A. The Illinois 833, yes, he was over that.

Q. How long did you live with them?

A. Oh, I stayed with them, I guess about off and on, three or four years.

Q. Could you tell me anything about them? For instance, living with them, what life was like for you?

A. They were mighty fine Christian people. All that I have lived with is Christian folks. They were supposed to be the educators of the city; you know, they was well educated. All I can say is they was just mighty fine folks.

Q. And you stayed in their home while you were taking music from her?

A. Mrs. Abner Nailer, yes. And then after, oh, I guess after three or four years I was employed in service.

Q. You were employed in the service?

A. In---what would I call it? Well, I guess you'd call that . . .

Q. Now was that . . .

A. . . . working with people in homes.

Q. Oh, you were employed. I see. Was this domestic?

A. Domestic, yes. That's what I wanted to say.

Q. For whom did you work?

A. Well, for several people. For the Ridgelys, McCleary, and the Lavelys. Well, just several people. The Colemans--they both were bankers. And of course, Ridgely in the National Bank. They was all the prominent people of Springfield.

Q. Now, did you live any other place besides with the Duncans?

A. Well, I'd come in to stay with my aunties.

Q. Where did they live?

A. South Fourteenth. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Watts; Mrs. Watts was my auntie.

Q. How long did you live with them?

A. Well, I wouldn't say that I lived with them very long. I would come in and stay as long as I'd choose and just, you know, kind of visit like.

Q. Oh, you came to visit and then you went back home?

A. Yes. I would go back and forth all the time, anyway, even with the other folks.

Q. Now, what about school--where did you go to school?

A. In the country school, Rochester vicinity.

Q. What was the name of your school?

A. Forest Grove.

Q. About how many students did you have at the school there?

A. Well, we had one room but at one time we had eighty children in that room. Of course, at that school after the eighth grade, they taught two years of high school, which I affiliated with the two years.

Q. So, when you went to the school out there, did you go to high school out there, too?

A. No, they gave the courses in the school. We had professors to come, see.

Q. To come from Springfield?

A. Well, no, some of them wasn't from Springfield; I can't remember where they were from. But you see, we farmers couldn't afford to send--or didn't want to send--the boys off to school, so the faculties hired the best teachers that they could and they taught the two years there.

Q. Now, who paid for it?

A. I guess the board--the school board.

Q. The board of education?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did your parents . . .

A. Yes, we paid for the two years.

Q. Did your parents ask the board to do this for their . . .

A. The parents, yes.

Q. Was there any reason why the students didn't come into Springfield to go to the high school?

A. Well, since they could do that, the children could go to high school and then they'd have more time to work in the fields, don't you know.

Q. So was that, then, just two years of high school . . .

A. That's all I had; that's all I had because . . .

Q. No, I'm not talking about what you had. Was that what most children . . .

A. Yes, at that particular time.

Q. Both blacks and whites?

A. Yes, but of course, we were the only colored at that time. We were the only colored folk for--and then my brother's children--see, we were the only colored out in that vicinity.

Q. So you worked on the farm and then you went to high school?

A. That's right.

Q. Did you have any brothers or sisters?

A. Oh, yes. I have five sisters and three brothers.

Q. Are they all living?

A. No.

Q. You have some that are living, though?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. They live here in Springfield?

A. One sister lives here and the other two live in Chicago.

Q. What's your sister's name that lives here?

A. Mrs. Laura Brooks. Do you want the other's names?

Q. Well, you could, yes.

A. Well, Miss Evon Harrell in Chicago and Mrs. Louise Jackson in Chicago.

Q. Now, so far as grocery stores. Did you have grocery stores out there in the Rochester vicinity?

A. No, we would trade at Rochester, Springfield or New City.

Q. New City is south of Rochester?

A. Is south of Rochester, and it was five miles south of our farm. And Rochester was, oh, I think Rochester was seven miles and Springfield was ten. So we traded, I think, with--our first papers come from Springfield.

Q. You mean your newspapers?

A. Newspapers.

Q. How often did you all go to the grocery store? Once a week, once every two weeks?

A. Well, I think once a week.

Q. Just about like they do now?

A. Well, just the same; it don't vary very much. If we needed anything, we got it.

Q. Now, so far as drug stores--what did you all do for drug stores?

A. Well, for twenty years we were so healthy we did not need any doctors. And we always. . . . Oh yes, our first was Dr. Southwick, S-O-U-T-H-W-I-C-K. Dr. Southwick, and I think he's still--or someone's still out south here. What do they call that?

Q. Where was his office?

A. Let me see. I can't call it to save my life right now.

Q. Well, it may come to you. So, you all were so healthy you didn't have to go to the drug store too much, nor to the doctor?

A. No, no.

Q. Now, when people got sick, did they come to Springfield to the hospital?

A. Let me see. I disremember. I can't remember. I think one of my sisters had a fever and I don't remember now whether they--Dr. Ware was our doctor, but he was in town here. And Dr. Southwick, I know he. . . . I forget just who doctored, or whether they just told the doctor and they sent medicine for

the fever. I think that's what they done.

Q. You don't remember a doctor ever coming to your home?

A. Well, I remember a doctor coming but I think it was Dr. Southwick.

Q. Now, what about theatres or things like that? Did you all go to the movies in your young days?

A. No. We were doing well to--my parents, we'd come to town. . . . You know the Emancipation Proclamation? Well, we would [come on Emancipation Day] and then for the fair. Because we kept pretty busy, I mean in most of our days. And after we were along about seventeen or eighteen, don't you know, then we'd come to church.

Q. Now, what was a day like for you? I mean, what time would you get up in the day; what was your work?

A. You mean on the farm? Well, we got up at four o'clock in the morning when we were able to, you know. I remember I had--I'm the fourth oldest and I didn't mind working, and when my two older ones would probably be out taking care of the fowl or something, I'd be straightening around in the house. And at five years old, I know my mother said that I could sweep as good as a grown-up. So I learned to work quite early. Then later on, you see, we had to milk the cows. We had to take care of them and if they had calves, we had to take care of them--put them separate in the pen and see that they were. . . . And then we would gather eggs or look after the fowl, something like that, don't you know. Then keep the premises outside clean. We always had something to do; there wasn't a dull moment. Then Mother put in a lovely garden and we had that to take care of and we could do it very well.

Q. So you would get up about four o'clock?

A. Oh yes, we'd get up at four o'clock in the morning.

Q. And you would work until about what time? What time did you have breakfast?

A. Well, we'd have it, I'd say, about 5:30 a.m. Then we'd do our chores. After we got large enough to go to school--see, we had a mile and three-quarters to go to school, so we had to have that work done. And with [getting in] wood and chips and cobs and things--you know, to furnish the heat--because Mother had a lot to do, so we had all of that to do. And then [we'd] fix our lunch buckets and hike out to the school. And then four o'clock when they'd let out, we'd get home and the cows were to be taken care of and eggs to gather and chickens to feed, ducks and turkeys and geese--everything like that.

Q. And what time did you have dinner?

A. Well, at school, naturally, we'd let out at twelve o'clock and we'd all have our lunch. So at home, the regular time--twelve o'clock.

Q. The evening meal?

A. Oh, the evening meal. Well, about 6:00 or 6:30.

Q. And what time did you all go to bed?

A. Well, when our work was done.

Q. Is that right. (laughter)

A. Sometimes Mother would be busy; she would be probably sewing, making--you know, those days they had carpet, rag carpets. And I know a lot of times we'd have to sit up and help her. And maybe if they--it always seemed like there was a baby in the family--well, there was a lot of things to be taken care of. So we would help. We'd get to bed when our work was done.

Q. That was about what--eight, nine o'clock?

A. Well, that's right.

Q. Now, your father would get up and . . .

A. Yes, he worked in the field. He got up early in the morning and he would go to the barn--and the boys--and they'd have the horses to, you know, the stock to take care of.

Q. What size farm did you have?

A. We had one hundred thirty-three acres.

Q. I imagine this takes some time to cultivate?

A. Well, it taken all of their time in the field. You know, those days--if you measure by the way they till a farm of today, you wonder how they did walk from one end [of the field] to the other and get done what they did. So you see, they had walking plows. You know what I mean, they walked.

Q. What did you cultivate on your farm besides the stock?

A. Well, we had wheat, corn, oats and rye and cane. My dad was a fine molasses maker.

Q. Is that right.

A. And he did it for others. We had the grinder and the vats, you know, and everything. We had everything. And he could certainly make sorghum.

Q. Is this the grinder that he has to use a mule on?

A. A horse.

Q. They use a horse, yes, to go around. Did you eat much of the sorghum?

A. Whew, did we. (laughter) You see, his father came from Kentucky, and I don't think there's anybody can make any sorghum better than the Kentuckians. And he sure had made many a barrel of sorghum.

Q. What part of Kentucky did his father come from?

A. Louisville.

Q. When you reaped the crop, what did you all do with it? For instance, the corn, the rye, the . . .

A. Well, he'd always save his seed corn. And he had a barn; he had bins for everything like corn, his oats, and things like that. And he always raised his seed corn. We had a lovely, lovely place; it was just beautiful. We children, I do remember that we would—we had everything on that farm that you wanted in the berry line and everything. We had maple trees. We . . .

Q. Did he take it to market?

A. Oh, yes, yes.

Q. Where did you do most of your marketing?

A. Springfield and Rochester, but mostly Springfield.

Q. When he brought it to Springfield, did he have a place where he would sell it or would he just take it to the market and people would come and buy small amounts?

A. Well now, we children—we girls—wouldn't know much about that because we wouldn't come with him, only when they come to get groceries. And I remember coming with him quite early in a big wagon. See, we'd come—well, we did have a two-wheel cart and then the spring wagon, but if he wanted to get something kind of large, don't you know, he would use the big wagon.

Q. I imagine that would be an enjoyable ride.

A. Well, it was. Children, you know, youngsters don't [care], just so they're riding. And I can remember that when Springfield—I think it seems like it was Capital was the only paved street.

Q. Is that right.

A. But you see, we've gone so much and traveled so much, we kind of get away from—unless you write those things. . . . But I remember that we didn't have but one paved street. And hitching posts. You see, you drove up to the hitching post and hitched your horses. On Fifth Street, it was down on Fifth and Monroe or Capital. And then, I think on Ninth Street, we had watering troughs and things like that.

Q. For the animals?

A. Yes, oh, yes.

Q. Do you know about when they stopped the watering troughs?

A. Well, let me see. You see, we didn't get to come to town so often because we didn't have no need, you know. And when the farmers worked so hard, they wouldn't fool with a whole lot of children. (laughter) And we had no need to come to town until we did want to go to church. Now, we did have a little

church out there.

Q. Oh, you did.

A. Oh, yes. I remember when I was just three years old, my sister used to piggy-back me across the stubble-field because the stubbles hurt my ankles. So we would go to this little church. It was a mighty fine church, and of course, we had white teachers.

Q. What kind of church was it?

A. It was just a church; I think it was Methodist. Just in general, you know, it . . .

Q. Now, this was a white church?

A. Oh, well . . .

Q. Because you were the only . . .

A. We were taught by white teachers. So there wasn't no other . . .

Q. Sunday school teachers?

A. Yes.

Q. Because you were the only black family out there.

A. That's right. As far as segregation, those folks were educated people and the colored didn't bother. See, we were treated very, very good. Because there was the Herndons and the Tobins which are in town now.

Q. Oh, I see, they used to live out there.

A. Well, yes. And then, of course, there was some cousins of Herndons that were here in town. And the Blakeleys. And you know, German people as a rule, too--they had a lot of German people and they are very, very nice people. We had no trouble with the landowners and they were landowners. But you let someone come in that would work for them, then they'd be a little hissed. But they . . .

Q. The workers would be, but not the owners?

A. No, no. They were fine people.

Q. When you got a little older you came into Springfield to church or what?

A. Oh, yes. Then when I came to Springfield and went into service, I visited all the churches in town to see which one would I like best. And so I found Union [Baptist Church] and that was in 1909, I think, and I've been there ever since.

Q. Where was Union located then?

A. Twelfth and Mason.

Q. Was there any other church nearby?

A. Yes. That was the easiest for me to get to because I like it better. Later on after we moved to town, of course, there was Pleasant Grove [Baptist Church] and there was Grace AME and, of course, St. Paul [AME] was pretty close. New Hope was a little further because it was up on Carpenter Street, I think.

Q. Now, what about Zion [Baptist Church]?

A. Yes, Zion was there, of course.

Q. Now, what year did you move to Springfield when you left the farm?

A. Let me see. I don't recall because I was in and out. Let me see.

Q. About how old were you?

A. I was eighteen.

Q. You were eighteen when you left. I see. And you left to do some work. Did the people that you worked for when you came to town--were these people very nice to you?

A. Oh, yes. (chuckles) Yes. I was talking about segregation—I can't remember when segregation really began in Springfield. I do know when folks began to migrate, and there was a little disturbance there in 1908. But, you see, I was still on the farm in 1908.

Q. Oh, you were still on the farm. I wonder if we could talk about that some. You know that has become known as the Race Riot.

A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell us something about that?

A. Well, other than. . . . The way it started?

Q. Well, what you know about it. Do you know how it got started?

A. Well, I think there was a Caucasian woman that implicated that a white—a race--man had disturbed her and so that stirred up the folks and they formed what you would call a mob. And it seems, though, it wasn't all of Springfield. It was out around the vicinity.

Q. You mean the mob?

A. Yes. And so it was someone that knew of the intermarriage—the race. . . . One of the old fellows—he was eighty-some-odd years old—Mr. Donnegan, his wife was a Caucasian. So they—I think they hung him. And then they tried to burn the Union Baptist Church. Destroy the Negro property—that's what they were [thinking], I think. But at that time most of the folks were renting that property. (laughter)

Q. Oh, so they didn't own it.

A. No. (laughter) They were mostly renting. And that's what amused we, the people.

Q. But, of course, their household goods belonged to them, so they might have lost that.

A. Well, however, they tried to burn the Union Church but they did not.

Q. Do you know why they didn't?

A. Yes. At least they told me; I didn't see it with my own eyes but folks that knew it--grown-ups. There was one man, and he must have come from the southern part of our country, and he saw to it--he got his group together--and he saw to it that they didn't make any headway towards burning the church down. So I think most of the . . .

Q. Do you know how he did it? Did they set watch or how did they do it?

A. Well, they watched and they were prepared. And every time one or any number would go to the church with anything to destroy, like fire or something, they would fell them, see. They would just shoot them down. So they didn't hurt only about Mr. Donnegan and, I think, Mr. Burton. And then I think an infant died in the affray.

Q. Oh, is that right?

A. That's right. And the property that they destroyed did not belong to the people who lived in the places.

Q. I see. Well, did you hear of a man by the name of Mr. Loper who had the restaurant?

A. Yes, I've heard of him, but not much. It didn't register much with us because we were listening. Because at the time my mother was at a convention in Rock Island and my dad was in town--he'd just went to town. We didn't know just what--we children didn't know just how far people would get to our home, ten miles. But we wasn't too ascares at all. We just--we were on the lookout.

Q. What did you do? When you say you were on the lookout, what did you all do?

A. (laughter) Well, we were always taught, Don't run from a mob. Because there wouldn't be no need, and we only had one life and [we learned], Protect yourself with that one life. So, if--you see, why, just take brother with you, whoever it is. See, take one. Because Dad and Mom always taught us, Don't run. So we were prepared, and we wasn't ascares at all.

Q. What did you do to prepare yourself?

A. Well, I know Dad had several rifles in the closet. A storm, a kind of a windstorm came up. And we always had to carry our water from the spring; we had a spring on our farm. So this bucket of water was sitting on the back porch covered up, and this wind blew this top off of the bucket and the bucket fell.

Cousin Lou from Louisville was staying with us. Cousin Lou, she ran to hide. And I, being the oldest one there, I gave I think it was three guns—let's see. Ed and Bess and I had one and I gave. . . . Yes, four guns. So I gave each one a gun and I said, "Now, when I tell the youngest one to open the door," I says, "when I say shoot—shoot." Because we thought it was the mobbers. And so the child opened the door and we was ready to shoot and then when I looked down and saw the bucket of water, naturally, we all had to laugh, don't you know, because, why, we was looking for people. But we wasn't afraid.

Q. They didn't come out there, though?

A. No, they didn't get that far. They didn't get out in what we call Goose Prairie here in Springfield, because they was ready for them out there, too.

Q. Where's Goose Prairie?

A. Well, that was out, like, East Kansas [Street] and out in there—East Kansas and Clay and down out further east.

Q. Are we talking then about, say, about Eighteenth Street east . . .

A. Yes, east. That's right.

Q. So you called that Goose Prairie.

A. Yes. That's what they called it.

Q. But, so far as you know, the mob didn't go in that section of town?

A. No, they didn't get that far. They tell me they was pretty well barricaded out that way, thought. They were just cautious.

Q. The people there were ready to protect themselves?

A. Oh, yes, they was ready to protect themselves.

Q. Do you know about how many white people got killed, or did they say?

A. I heard, now—I don't know how true it is—that one of our morticians here said that it would have been better for them to have left the Negroes alone, because they had to bury their dead at night. And we do know that after the riot we saw more people hopping and crippling, with bandages you know, and everything. Yes.

Q. Was this a white or black mortician?

A. They were white because . . .

Q. White mortician?

A. . . . they didn't hurt many; they was only three colored, as I say. And if there was any more colored, we did not hear about it at least.

Q. So far as you know, were the black people frightened?

A. No, not at all. No. That's the reason why I say that they were well prepared.

Q. I mean, I know in Goose Prairie they were prepared, but . . .

A. Up near around the church and up on Mason?

Q. Yes, up around Mason.

A. No, they didn't seem to be too many that. . . . Naturally, when you--you know, they might have been just a little frightened but not afraid, see.

Q. Now, did you know, or have you heard, that there were many blacks who left Springfield because of that? Do you know if this is so or not?

A. No, I didn't know, didn't pay much attention to any or many that left. Now, there might have been but none within my knowledge. I don't know but one, and so. . . .

Q. So after this riot, what was life like for the people?

A. Well, I don't know. We didn't see much change. I think everything cooled down pretty good but we did try to keep a watch and we found out that it was all a mistake and it wasn't the colored man at all because the offspring was white.

Q. What did they do to the woman?

A. Well, I don't know. They had a trial. Of course at that time, you know, it didn't register much with us, you see, and when we found out it was just all a mistake and the woman was trying to protect herself from her husband. . . . But we found out that it. . . . Oh, at that time there was something--I don't know whether he left her or what he did, but anyway it cooled down.

Q. Did she confess that it wasn't a black person?

A. Yes, I think she did.

Q. Do you know who rebuilt the places that were broken down and burned down?

A. No, I didn't learn that. I didn't learn the names because, as I said, it didn't register with us children. At least we didn't. . . . We do know that most of the folks rented, and so. . . .

Q. Now, is there anything else you can remember about the riot?

A. As I said, I thought it had cooled off pretty good because people began to get back to normal, you know. They didn't let it worry them too much. I never saw where there was much segregation until after that. There was a few people that would probably, you know, scorn the Negro race, but I think it was pretty good.

Q. Is that right.

A. Of course, we do know that there's segregation most any place. And there's a few people that just can't get along with anyone but theirselves. But with us—I tell you that I can't remember just being really segregated, because I didn't go to these schools and my cousins and them that did go, they graduated and got along very well.

Q. Your cousins that went to high school here in town?

A. Yes.

Q. But so far as you are concerned, you didn't come up across too much . . .

A. Too much, no.

Q. So the riot was over; things got back to normal; you stayed on the farm. Now, at what age did you move into Springfield for good?

A. Well, when my mother—when was it she come to town? Let's see. I forget when she came to town.

Q. Well, about how old were you?

A. Oh, when I came to town I was sixteen. You know, I was here before she came.

Q. You came, but you went back home, didn't you, and then came back?

A. Well, I went back and forth.

Q. But you don't quite remember the year when your mother left the farm?

A. No, I don't know.

Q. Had your father died then?

A. No.

Q. So your mother and father came to town, then?

A. Mother separated and then the dad stayed on the farm.

Q. Oh, I see. So you came to town. How would you compare life on the farm to life in the city?

A. Well, we liked the farm life. Because, as for myself, I'm a lover of animals and fowl, you see. The city is fine but when you have lived on the farm and produced most everything that you utilize, naturally, there wasn't much want there. (laughter)

Q. That makes a difference.

A. I should say. It made a lot of difference.

Q. Did you have a little garden in town?

A. Oh, yes. At our first little place we had a little garden and when we

moved out here in . . .

Q. Where was this first little place; where was it located?

A. At 919 South Seventeenth.

Q. At 919 South Seventeenth. So you had a little garden?

A. Yes. We had a garden and we had fowl; we raised our chickens. And then when we moved out here—I think it was in 1931 we built and moved out here.

Q. We—now, who?

A. Jess and I.

Q. You and your husband?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, we haven't talked about him yet. Now, when was this grand affair—when did you get married?

A. In 1917 and he went in the service; he was drafted, and I think in six weeks he was on his way to the camp up here—Camp David? Did they call that Camp David? Something up here in Michigan.

Q. Is that the one in Michigan?

A. Yes.

Q. So how long did he stay up there?

A. Well, he didn't stay there hardly any time; I think in six weeks he was sailing for Germany.

Q. How long did he stay in Germany?

A. A year.

Q. So you all were apart all this time.

A. Yes, and his oldest daughter was eight months old before he ever saw her.

Q. Is that right. How many children do you have?

A. I have four.

Q. Are they living?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. What are their names?

A. Well, there's Frances, Louise, and Jess, Jr., and Hessie Jean.

Q. Where do they live?

A. Junior lives here with me. HESSIE lives across the street here, just here lately. She has bought over there. And the other two girls are in Chicago. Alice Louise, that's the second girl, she's employed by the Sears [Roebuck, and] Company over--well, I think she's got their second pin. . . . I forget how many years, now.

Q. For the Sears Company?

A. Yes. And the other girl, she's just a housewife.

Q. So after the year was up and your husband came home, what was life like for you all?

A. Well, it was normal, don't you know. It was busy, seeing that the children were in school. And of course, he was in service in the greenhouse. He worked for. . . . I think he retired--helped to retire--two men at the greenhouse and then after that they bought it. Him and another partner bought the greenhouse.

Q. He was working in this greenhouse and he bought it out--he and another man?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was the greenhouse located?

A. Sixteenth and South Grand Avenue, under the name of L. D. Factor. Mr. Factor sold to him [Mr. Martin] and Lewis South.

Q. Lewis South?

A. That's right, and he is a Caucasian--he was a Caucasian. And my husband, the two bought it out. They were partners then for about twenty or twenty-five years, somewhere along there.

Q. Now he had it for twenty-five years as part-owner?

A. Yes.

END OF SIDE ONE

Q. The greenhouse, did it continue to remain on South Grand?

A. Yes. And I forget, now, the year that they--I didn't look that up--that they sold out. Because it was pretty hard to get help and they were getting older. So they got--you know, they was satisfied with the price that was offered and they sold.

Q. About what amount of business did he do?

A. Well, now. . . .

Q. I mean, do you have any idea about how many, for instance, cabbages did

he cultivate per year?

A. Well now, you see, there's. . . . No, I don't. I wouldn't know that because I forget now how many houses they had. But they had a little better than, well, I'd say a half a block. And they had flowers and plants and things like that and vegetable plants. They had a nice business.

Q. A very good business then?

A. Oh, yes, it was a good business. And Decoration Day we began March the 1st, and all the cemeteries—I think they would have so many urns to decorate in the different [cemeteries], Oak Ridge and Cavalary and Rochester and the other little towns around here.

Q. They would provide the . . .

A. Yes.

Q. Seems like it was a pretty good business.

A. It was a business. (laughter) It was a pretty big business.

Q. Did you work with him in this?

A. Oh yes, oh yes.

Q. Just what did you do?

A. Well, when we'd first go in, naturally, they had beds of plants with vegetables and flowers. It would take me some time to name the vegetables and flowers. But, we'd have to take the little plants from the hotbed, you would call it, and put them in little pots. And we would do that three times; as the plant grew it would take, you know, one-inch, two-inch or three-inch pot. So we'd have to plant them and there was many, many numbers that we had to do. I forget how long our rows were—longer than this house—and I forget how many benches. It would take me some time. I know you've been in a greenhouse, you probably know.

Q. Oh yes.

A. You could estimate easier than I could. We would have those to change, as I said, from an inch pot to a two-inch pot or three-inch and then six. And the geraniums would be little and then the other flowers, you know. It was quite a big business.

Q. Now, did you make a comfortable living?

A. Oh yes.

Q. I mean, if it's not too much, about what was your average weekly income from that—on the average?

A. Well now, just let me see. You mean what my husband would get? Per week?

Q. Yes, on the average.

A. Well, I think they had. . . . We'd get over fifty dollars a week.

Q. Fifty dollars? That's cleared?

A. Yes.

Q. His partner would get his share and then they would have to take care of their expenses and so forth?

A. Yes.

Q. But then as things go on, the business grew?

A. Oh, yes. As time drew on the business, they'd get more. And then after a time they'd take out whatever they--you know. . . .

Q. How many employees did they have?

A. Well, I do know at one time they had eleven. Because, you see, Mr. South did most of the hauling and they'd have to haul dirt and fertilizer and the like to keep things going, don't you know. My husband worked on the inside and he worked very hard keeping plants and selling plants, you know. That's what we would do. We would plant them, have to keep the little plants going and when they'd mature, why, people would come in and get plants for their garden and flowers and things like that. So we had to know what we were doing, you know. And there was the books to be kept straight.

Q. Who kept the books?

A. Well, they--Mr. South and Mrs. South would probably keep the books, you know, check up. And then my husband would probably go up and help some. But the books they'd leave out in the greenhouse to check and write down, why, we who were selling would have to. . . .

Q. Did you have many white customers?

A. Oh my, yes. (laughter) Oh, yes. They'd come in and a lot of them wouldn't have nobody to wait on them but Jess, my husband. They'd call for him because, you see, he was there and he knew the plants and knew what it meant while Mr. South kept. . . .

Q. Out, do more outside work?

A. Well, he had to haul the coal. Because, you see, you got to keep that plant going; and then the dirt, there's that to be hauled. So he did mostly that; but a lot of the inside work, too, because they had to work together. And he was--you wouldn't wish to have a finer person to work with.

Q. That's wonderful.

A. It was.

Q. And so they actually sold this place when they got ready to retire?

A. Oh yes. Yes, because it got to the place where we women got. . . . Of

course, I quit them before, because I found that it was giving me rheumatics and so I said that I wouldn't work. And it was just hard because it was mostly men's work, you know, because carrying these pots and carrying dirt and stuff like that is pretty strenuous for a woman. But at the last when they sold out, I went back and I think I was seventy years old when I went back to help them. And I prayed every day that I'd—that it wouldn't kill me.

Q. But anyway, you look on it now and say that it was a pretty good business.

A. It was a fine business and it was a fascinating business. A business that you just want to keep doing it, but your strength won't let you, you see.

Q. Now, about how long have you lived here?

A. Let me see; we built in 1931.

Q. Oh, my goodness. That's forty-three years.

A. I think it was, because I remember the youngest kid.

Q. And you own it now?

A. Oh yes, yes. There's no indebtedness on it at all. I thank the Lord for that. Hasn't been for some time.

Q. Is there some reason why you decided to make Springfield your home?

A. Well, my parents were here and most of my relatives were here. And in what little traveling I did do, I didn't see anyplace that I would care to live. I don't think I could better myself any more than what I have, because after we married and my husband was in the business and my family came on and I helped in the business for about thirteen years, you know. So there wasn't no—I didn't see where I could better myself by going any other place and I don't think. . . .

At one time there was a man came in and offered to. . . . He went to Gary, Indiana, and he halfway had my husband sold on going to Gary but I wouldn't leave my mother; she was living at that time, and that is one reason, too—I wouldn't leave Mother because she really depended on me mostly, so I wouldn't leave her because she was getting up in age. I think she passed at sixty-six.

Q. Oh, in 1966?

A. She passed in 1930, but she was sixty-six when she died. So that was, too, one reason that I wouldn't leave Springfield.

Q. Now, Mrs. Martin, looking back over what seems to be a fascinating life for you, is there any experience that stands out more than any other for you?

A. No. When I was seven years old I always wanted to travel and so I said to Mother one day—they were talking about the rainbow and it had a pot of gold—and I said, "Well, I want to get that pot of gold." Mother said, "Well, you better start out walking." And she said, "You'll have many a mountain to climb." And I thought it was just (laughter)—to a child, you know, it looked like it was just on the other side of the barnyard. From then on

through my life's travel I said, "I'm going to see some of God's world."

So I think our first—I belonged to the organizations, the Heroines of Jericho and the Eastern Star and Tabernacle _____ church. So, naturally, they always send the presiding officer . . .

Q. Delegate.

A. Yes. So I think I went to Chicago; then the session was to be over in Evanston. Well, I went there, and traveled. So, my oldest sister moved out to Gary, Indiana. Then we decided—my sister who's just a little younger than I—decided we wanted to go see her. So we did and we each stayed out there, I think, about two weeks or three. Then, I think, after that we went to—she moved to Cleveland, and from Cleveland she moved to Connecticut. Oh, what is that city? She went to Connecticut, and we visited her there. That was during the World War number—you see, my husband was in World War I and my son was in World War II. And I went out there and I think I stayed three weeks with her, visiting her.

Q. How did you like it?

A. It was fine, lovely. They were caterers to one of the ambassadors from one of the foreign countries—I forget what country it was. During that I had a wonderful experience. They had two small daughters, and their Chinese governess wanted to go to Chicago to visit her sister. Their name was Speedman; they looked like they were very, very wealthy—they were very wealthy. And so they asked me would I be governess to the children the two weeks. Believe me, I didn't know whether I could do it or not because, you know, with what little knowledge I had. But in being around people that were—all my life—that studied, naturally, you watch yourself.

So I had a wonderful experience there taking care of those children. While I was visiting, you see. So it was very nice. My brother-in-law, naturally, he was the butler; and he'd take us and the children in their fine car and away we'd ride. I led a pretty fine life that way. So that was a mighty nice experience.

After that, through the organizations and my club work, the Association of Clubwoman, I visited a lot of the states. And under our national president, Mrs. Rosie Gregg, she gave the tour to Europe—nine different countries—so I taken that in. We had a lovely, lovely time. It just would take me quite some time to tell you the entertainments and the things and the different nationalities. And I know we sat down one time—the queens and them prepared this dinner.

Q. In the country where you were?

A. Yes, they called that—of course, we went to carry goodwill. I forget how many thousand people sat down at once in this great big place.

Q. Do you recall what country this was?

A. Let's see, was that Paris or Germany? I got my books; I wrote it all up because it was . . .

Q. Do you have any pictures of your travels or something like that?

A. Unfortunately, I thought I was taking and mine didn't turn out good; didn't turn out good at all. I was really surprised. I don't know what it was, but I knew that quite a few had trouble. I don't know what it was. I noticed here lately when someone else went, they said that their pictures didn't turn out; they were so disappointed.

Q. Maybe the way the camera was operated or something like that?

A. I don't know; maybe I didn't know how to operate it just like it should be. But I do know one friend, she had hers with her and then she had to take it someplace and have it checked and worked on. So I don't know. It's just like we started out with our pressing iron and our socket would not fit. So I couldn't use my pressing iron, although I didn't have to very much. Of course, what I wore, I just shook it out and went right on. But it wouldn't work. So if you travel that way, you have to kind of check on those things because. . . . But now they might have it more, you know, organized.

So we visited nine different countries and I can't name--I used to could name every one of them but I've kind of slipped on that. I do know that our first--we went over Newfoundland and Greenland down to Copenhagen. So we were there; we had a lovely time there. And from there we went to Germany and then came on down to Paris. I think we sailed from Paris on home. We had a lovely, lovely time.

Q. That's wonderful. Now, your husband didn't go with you?

A. No, I couldn't get him to go. (laughter) Couldn't get him to go.

Q. Maybe he was working?

A. Well, he was working, and he said, "No, that would make people think that we were rich." I said, "No, they can look at us and tell we ain't rich." (laughter) He wouldn't go, but I went on because that was my life's--I wanted to travel. I saw that and then several of the southern states--Florida. And from there we went to Cuba; we were over there. And we went all up in Canada, and then Hawaii.

Q. Oh, you have been to Hawaii?

A. Oh yes, yes. We had our session in Colorado; it's a beautiful place. Have you been there?

Q. No, I flew over; I flew to California. When we got there they told us that this was Colorado, but I've never been there.

A. It's beautiful. You know they have the Garden of the Gods there. And then they have another; I didn't take that in. I forget what that's called, but they said it's just a gorgeous place. But the Garden of the Gods, you just--I'm telling you, you just think, "What a mighty God, the mighty God!" And in all those travelings, you know, the sun shone--some places put you in mind of Illinois. And as I said, with all the places, I don't see anyplace that I'd just yearn to live. Because I think if you love your home, you had a fairly good home life, that's home. See?

Q. So, even though you traveled to these places, the visit was okay but you still want Springfield.

A. Well, home, yes. You know, you come to rest--home. Now, if I had to live anyplace else, I could. But other than that. . . .

Q. Now, is there any other great experience? I know you mentioned the fact that when you were seven you thought of the pot of gold. When did you find out what this pot of gold was? (laughter)

A. Well, in studying. I used to study a good deal. I liked history; I liked reading, writing and arithmetic, but history was, I think, the reason why that I like to travel. And I studied it, and I don't know. . . . At one time I could tell you--give you--the three largest cities in the States, in any state, in any of the foreign countries, and tell you all the mountains and all the rivers and everything. That's because I wanted to travel and I learned that before I traveled.

Q. So you did some homework before you . . .

A. Yes, but now you ask me what's the capital of Quebec or ask me the capital (laughter)--I probably couldn't tell you half the states, but you couldn't fool me on the three largest cities nor the capital of Canada and the foreign countries.

Q. Now, have you been to Canada?

A. All up in Canada. All three of the largest cities in Canada and all on out, you know, in the--I'd say in the Indian reservation. Way up in there.

Q. Well, what about Central America? Have you been down there?

A. No, it seems as though I never cared about--when you go to Cuba, I think you get a lot of Central America. It's similar. There isn't but about four places I would love to go and that's Alaska, Japan and China and Australia. But those would be about the only ones now that I could hit; I been to the others and most all the states in the union here. My brother lived in California when I came from Hawaii, and I stopped in California. So he taken me all over--Hollywood and there all about.

Q. Is that right. So you have really had your go-round.

A. I'm quite satisfied. As I said, if I don't get to the other countries, which it don't look probable that I will--but if I ever get a chance, I'm gone. (laughter)

Q. Now, are you going on the trip to Jamaica?

A. Well, now you see, that's another thing. I've been to Cuba and I've been to Hawaii and I had a chance to go to--oh, what's those others down there near Jamaica? But I taken--you see, at that time I went to Europe, there was three excursions and we could take in either one we wanted, but I wanted to take Europe. I don't know if I'm going to Jamaica.

Q. You mentioned the Association of Colored Women. Is this the Colored Women or Association of Clubwomen? Is that the same thing?

A. That's the same. You see, Mrs. Julia Duncan, she was the first president and she was the one who saw the need of our girls. Teach them, you know, protect them from the way that they were going. So she formed this club and she was the first president. I think Mrs. Alice White was the first secretary. Mrs. McCoo that was buried the other day, that was her mother--Mrs. Alice White. And Mrs. Jennie McLean, what was she? I don't know.

However, she was the one that organized; and she had the white club--Women's Club--to help her organize this club. That's why we taken the [name] Springfield Colored Women's Club, because there was a Springfield Women's Club.

Q. And that was white.

A. Yes. So she taken the Colored, which I thought was very well because we had made such a wonderful stride and that just only shows what we can do if we get up and do it.

Q. Why was it necessary to form a colored women's club? They wouldn't let you all in the white?

A. Well, in those days I don't think that they were even thinking about that. I guess there was a separation there; there must have been. Just like the churches. Why are we having. . . . (laughter) Why do we have this church way off to ourselves? I think any group of people or nationality--the Germans, the High Dutch, the Low Dutch, the Irish, the Indian--well, we just flock with our group of people, you know?

A. But so far as you know, Mrs. Duncan saw the need to organize this group so that the colored women would be able to . . .

A. To help our girls to live a better life, you know.

Q. To teach them, I guess, a certain decorum, a certain way of society and so forth?

A. That's right. Because the other group planned social things for their young girls and why not we? Now, they didn't take them in--now, they might have been; I know some of the colored folks, or some of we, belong to white churches but it wasn't so prevalent. You know, we all like our own mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers and our aunts and uncles, and if we congregated--if we go to a big to-do--if we look up and see somebody over there that we know, relatives or close friends, we just flock together because we have something in common.

Q. Let me ask you this--was the Springfield Women's Club a different group from the YWCA?

A. Why, I think we had. . . . Now, when I began to notice, we all was linked in together with this Phyllis Wheatly and things like that, you see, when I noticed that. But I have an idea it was just like our churches: we had one of our own, see.

Q. Do you think that the colored women felt more comfortable with a group of their own?

A. Well, I have an idea. Well, ever since slavery, naturally, there's some people can adjust theirself. Now you take it from me—I didn't know nothing but the white group out there on the farm. Well, colored don't come before me. See, colored don't come before me. I've taken care of white babies and I see no difference. They're looking for security. And the little fellow's all around my face and kissing me and—I don't see no difference. The colored never come before me. And I take my white babies—I take them to church, naturally, someone would look and I'd pay them no attention. And then I noticed that when I taken care of three little girls of my own group—and they were rather dark—and they did the same thing. They looked, "Well, my Lord. Why, you'd just take anything." Well, a human being is a human being. It doesn't make any difference what color to me.

See, I can adjust myself because most folks that I was employed by, they would say, "Come on." See, "Come on out." And I know one—he drove a horse and buggy—and every afternoon when he'd close his store he'd say, "Come on out." And we'd ride all over town and everyplace else. See, I never knew much segregation because I worked around people that didn't let that stand in their way.

And when we went to our grocery stores and our drug stores—now, I do know that we could do that. But after the riot and after, as I say, people began to migrate, then a lot of them thought that they's so free when they get up above that Mason and Dixon line that they can do anything. But we can't. We all have to toe the mark and you can't go in in somebody else's home and run them out. And you know, that seemed to be the attitude to so many, and it's because they didn't understand. I do remember one particular place, drug store, and we'd been going there and the man would serve us. A bunch of us from church, we'd go. His name was Mr. Clarkson.

Q. Clarkson, how do you spell this now?

A. C-L-A-R-K-S-O-N. That was in my early days. They were just as nice to our group, but there was a group came in here and went in there and tried to run the man—"We're up North; we're free."—and like to run the man out of his store. Well then, naturally you know, people wouldn't stand for that. So I know the man said to we—so he barred them, he wouldn't let them in. So then we go back, he said to us, "Well," he said, "now you folks, you can come in. But," he says, "we won't let those other people." So then's when we noticed, see.

Q. This was after the riot?

A. Well, yes. Oh yes.

Q. Where was this drug store located?

A. At Sixth and Monroe. I think it was Sixth and Monroe.

Q. Did you notice whether or not people could go to any other place and get a sandwich or something like that?

A. Well, I don't know. Because, you see, we didn't go to many places to eat because we probably had our eats, you know. But it would be like ice cream, you know, a sundae, something like that.

Q. Could you go and get it and eat it there?

A. Well, any of the stores we know of, yes.

Q. Would you please tell me a little more about this Springfield Colored Women's Club? About how many members did you have?

A. Well, there was a rise and a fall. I remember we have had forty, forty-two; then we'd drop down to, you know, probably thirty. We've been organized—this is our 75th year.

Q. Seventy-fifth year! Is that right.

A. Yes. I hope we get to . . .

Q. So that was organized then before . . .

A. In 1899; I was born in 1889 and that was organized about 1899.

Q. Now, you have served as president of that group?

A. Oh yes. I think I served it more than any of them have. I served it seven years. Two years early, and then next, I think. . . .

Q. Did you all have tenure so that you serve a certain time and then somebody else?

A. We had two years. But some of us had to go back and take over and I was one of the ones that had to go back and take it over, because a lot of the times some people just—you know, the responsibility.

Q. So you found that this organization was quite functional to help young girls?

A. Oh, yes. We have had our youth and they have put on some mighty fine programs. We have them in the local, the district, the state and the national.

Q. So you still have national meetings?

A. Oh, yes. And our national home is in Washington, D.C., and it used to be the north. . . . Let's see, was it—I forget the address. I have it all down but I just don't remember.

Q. In D.C.?

A. Yes. That was our headquarters, our first home; now, I think, they bought their new home. But our first home was General Grant's granddaughter's home—beautiful. It was on R Street there in Washington, D.C., Northwest something. I been there but. . . .

Q. Do you feel that there is a need for that group for young black girls today?

A. Why, yes. It's very educational.

Q. Are the young black girls participating in this group?

A. Yes, they do. I forget now just how---now, there's one of our clubs here, Mary Church Terrell, they still have their girls because they have younger women. Now, you take the Springfield Colored Women's Club, we women are older women. And of course, to attract young folks you must have some younger group, don't you know, to supervise those girls. It's much better than---what I mean, I don't say it's any better, but you know, they'll come quicker.

Now, when I was younger I kept my group quite a long time and I think I was the first one to enter them into the district and take them to the state and national. But it takes a younger person to keep up with them because they got to be entertained and everything. And then a lot of times you have to use your own finance, you know, so that all means a lot. Because there's probably some girl that can't---and you can't segregate, so you have to look out for that girl that can't defray her expenses, probably. So we've done mighty fine work.

Q. What is the relation between the Springfield Colored Women's Club and the Mary Church Terrell?

A. Well, it's just the same thing, only this group, see, they formed their group. Say ten women or over, anyone can form a group.

Q. The Terrell group?

A. Yes. Anyone can form a group and call it whatever you please. Our's is the Springfield Colored Women's Club. Well see, we met in the afternoon and one of the main causes was because some of those women worked and they could only be free at evening, so it was better for them to have an evening club. As we got older, we older folks---some of them, not me because I'm not afraid of the night nor day---but transportation [is a problem] sometimes, and wherever you live may give you a little fear coming out at night. So that is why; their club was started from that. We had another club, but it didn't survive.

Q. So mostly, then, the Mary Church Terrell group meet at night.

A. Yes. In the evening.

Q. And their job is almost the same?

A. Yes, just the same. Well now, we have what we call the Mother, Home and Child, we have the Philanthropic, the Educational and Woman in Industry, and the Legislative. See, now we have those four departments.

Q. Mother, Home and Child. And then you have the Philanthropic.

A. And Welfare. Then we have the Educational and Woman in Industry, Legislative---let's see, what is it they call that? The Legislative and the. . . . Isn't that funny?

Q. But these were actually your departments?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, people were assigned to these departments?

A. Yes, we have a chairman for each department. And then we have what I said, too, the Children's Department. Now, we have the Young Adults and that's from—I forget the ages—from something to 18, and from 18 to 35 it would be called the Adults. You see now, you can have those two departments.

Q. Now, for instance, let's take the Mother, Home and Child. Would they teach young women how to . . .

A. Yes, the home—how to operate in a home, see. And that'll teach them how to . . .

Q. Be a mother, take care of . . .

A. Keep care of the home and how to cook and how to set the table and things that pertain in the home. We did all of that.

Q. And so you've been doing it a long time before a lot of these social agencies started taking over to do this?

A. Well, yes.

Q. You've been doing that. All right.

A. Yes, because that was the main thing that Mrs. Duncan saw that the youngsters didn't know how to do. They didn't know how to cook; they didn't know how to even wash or iron or, you know, and so . . .

Q. Now, did you all go into these young women's homes to help them or did you have a workshop when you meet to teach about . . .

A. If it was necessary, we would go in the homes. But mostly we'd have a meeting and then we put on this demonstration. And we'd have them to set the table, we'd have them to do this and, you know, and things like that. And then we'd—if it was necessary, we taught them how to sew and how to iron and do anything like that.

Q. Now, this Philanthropic and Welfare was helping destitute . . .

A. Yes, and that was mostly to study the Bible, don't you know. We'd always have to—we'd use the Bible all the way through in our work, and of course, that department and the Educational Department . . .

Q. Worked sort of together.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, there's a few more things that I'd like to ask you. Now, do you have time for us to, or would you want me to come back some other time.

A. What was that?

Q. Well, I'd like to talk a little more about this club, here, because it seems to me that this is a very important thing and not too many people, actually, know of your services . . .

END OF TAPE

Q. Now, Mrs. Martin, you were telling me about the motto.

A. Yes. Lifting As We Climb.

Q. Why did you all choose that kind of motto?

A. Well, as I said, it pertains to training. You know, we saw that our youth--or she did--need to be trained, so she got the group together and began to teach them how to be respectable women among our race.

Q. And you would say that this had paid off?

A. Oh yes, oh yes. Because we would take them to the most educational places and show them; and we figured that with a group that way, if you take them, what they can see--the high culture--with their own eyes, then they can grasp it better, see. So we've done work along that line.

Q. And basically, this organization, you say, was founded by Mrs. Duncan.

A. Yes.

Q. I know you said that sometimes you all would take the money out of your pocket to sponsor a girl or young woman.

A. Yes, that's true.

Q. So you didn't have any organization that was funding you?

A. Oh, no.

Q. This was a goodwill . . .

A. This was just a charitable . . .

Q. Charitable thing by the concerned women of the town.

A. Yes, that's right. Of course, now, when we'd put on--we have put on entertainments, you know. We would ask the public.

Q. And they would attend?

A. Oh yes, yes.

Q. Tell me a little bit more about Mrs. Duncan. What kind of lady was she?

A. Well, she was a real mother. She was a mother that worked within the home, see. And I don't think that many of her days--like my mother--was out in the service much, you know, like housewives. She reared her family and, see, she had two daughters and, of course, Colonel Duncan, her son, and a husband, naturally. Now, I don't know the occupation that they did. The most I knew when I lived with her: Dr. Ware married her daughter, Clara. The second of the two girls. Addie and Clara.

Q. Now, this Dr. Ware, was he a black doctor?

A. Yes. One of the leading doctors among the group. Mr. Patton--the white--he was supposed to be the leading doctor. Dr. Ware, he was good on fevers and whenever any of them wanted to curb a fever, they'd call for Dr. Ware.

Q. Is that right. You mean the blacks and whites?

A. Yes, oh yes. Dr. Ware had more whites than he did have blacks.

Q. Is that right. And so Mrs. Duncan just decided this needed to be done and she called some women together and they do this?

A. Yes. She called. . . . Oh, what was her name, the white lady with her group? I have the book, but I can't call the names right now. Of course, I know Mrs. . . .

Q. Do you know where you could put your hands on the book?

A. Yes, I think I do. Excuse me. (tape stopped and started; Mrs. Martin reads) "It was organized August 30, 1899," see. And, "The object of the club was threefold: general charity, social, moral and civic improvements. And our motto was, Lifting As We Climb."

Q. I see. And the first president was Mrs. Duncan?

A. Mrs. Julia Duncan, yes.

Q. Now, you said that there was somebody from the white group who came to help you organize.

A. Yes, I don't think I have . . .

Q. Well, that's okay.

A. I have it someplace but I don't think I . . .

Q. Well, that's okay. And this was organized in 1899?

A. That's right.

Q. Tell me, Mrs. Martin, how did the Depression, for instance, affect your life and your family life?

A. Well, you mean this last depression that we had during . . .

Q. In 1929, 1930, 1931--that time.

A. Well, I don't know. We do know that we were buying in along there, paying for our home. I was employed, and I know my husband. . . . I think. . . .

Q. He was in the service, was he?

A. No, he was in the greenhouse. I think it was two months that they didn't draw any pay, or maybe a little longer. But by my being--I could carry on, see. And the children in school. And we got along very well; we didn't lose anything. We did lose a dollar or two we had in the bank, but it didn't phase

us any. We had insurance and we just cashed them in and carried on just the same, because we figured if we got on through that we could take insurance out and it ought to save enough to put us away, because you don't need nothing but your burial and why have a whole lot left. You know what I mean, you can't utilize it, so fix for your burial like you do for your life—living—and then the rest just use.

Q. Just let it stay. Whoever's left behind, carry on. That's a good sensible policy.

A. That's the way we figured. So, the insurance—and I knew I could and I did, afterwards; I taken out one or two, accident, you know, going to and through, because I was driving and we could have an accident any time, so I did take out. And even when I traveled on the train, I'd always take out a little insurance.

Q. But then away from the few months that your husband and his partner didn't get any pay . . .

A. It paid off, because the fellow [employer] told him that they wouldn't lose anything if they'd stick with him instead of hunting another job. So they did, and it paid off, you see, because . . .

Q. Did he have his. . . . Excuse me, go ahead.

A. It paid off because he [employer] sold out to the boys and he did it reasonable, don't you know, and they got along fine.

Q. About how long after did he sell out?

A. Oh, I can't remember, but I know it wasn't too awfully long that the two boys was able to pay off the debt. I forget now just how long.

Q. That was good.

A. And they made good; the boys made good. They really did. They done awfully well, and they never had a hitch. That's one thing.

Q. I know your husband was a prominent man in the community, especially in the church.

A. He loved to give; he loved to do what he could do. And he loved to work and you find a person that likes to work and he's pretty well easy to get along with. He's helped a many a person.

Q. He was a very nice person to talk to. He has a lot of good ideas and so forth. Was he a trustee or a deacon?

A. He was a trustee at first and then he was a deacon at last.

Q. And his name was Jess P.?

A. Jess P.

Q. Jess P. Martin. Do you think the number of blacks that are living in Springfield now is more or, say, about the same or less than when you first moved here?

A. Oh, I think here in Springfield—I think there's more of us.

Q. Now?

A. Yes, because, you see, that was early days and there was just a few. There was just a very few.

Q. What about job opportunities for blacks during that time? Were there much opportunity for them to get good paying jobs?

A. Well, I think most of them were, you know, like working in the hotels and things like that, don't you know. And in the stores. It's according to how they could measure up to things, see.

Q. What about mining?

A. Well, there was a few miners. Not many of our folks liked to go down in that mine, I don't think. Not up here. (laughter)

Q. I know in West Virginia and around Pennsylvania . . .

A. Yes, well, there's more of them down there. But they was a few of ours mined, but most of our folks would take the butlership and in the hotels and the different places like that, don't you know. There wasn't many farmers. Now, you take Mr. Nathan Smith—that's this young Harrison Smith's grandfather; he lived across the Bypass 66, south from Bunn Park, and he owned a lot of ground out in there. Much more than my father owned. He was pretty wealthy, Nathan Smith.

Q. Is he still living?

A. No, no, they both are gone. He had quite a family—cousins and his brother. And he divided his estate, and all of them, they were pretty well taken care of. I forget how many acres Nathan had out there. Now, he was one of the early pioneers like my father, see.

Q. Well, did you find that many blacks went in because they had manufacturing here during that time?

A. Well, now, that's—no, I'll tell you. Most people that were here was like the Ridgelys and . . .

Q. The Lanphiers?

A. The Lanphiers and the, oh, what is the family name? All those prominent people. They were millionaires and they wanted Springfield to stay like, you know, Abraham Lincoln—have that look. And they wouldn't let . . .

Q. Industry.

A. . . . industry to come in and, naturally, it just stayed, you know. And they didn't want to give up their ground; they owned so much property around here. Pasfields—our farm joined Pasfield's farm, I think. And then, oh, the other rich folks; I just can't call them all. The brewery—the man that had the brewery. And I named the Klaholts, the Bucks. See, they was all merchants

and they was pretty wealthy. And naturally, see, you take people in that category, they don't—they're not segregate, they don't. . . . If they are, they don't show it, see. And we could go in any of the stores, get anything you wanted and you could come out. We didn't have to go to the back door.

Q. Do you think that the fact that these people owned the land that surrounded Springfield was the one reason why industry . . .

A. Was kept out. Yes, they kept it out. They kept it out until they found that Peoria—you see, now, we had the capital. Well, Peoria wanted the capital. So then I noticed that—I think they didn't accept the different factories until they found out that Peoria wanted to take the capital because they had the more people, the bigger city, bigger commercials and things going on. And then they have that water outlet.

Of course, you know now, I didn't hear them talk about that, but other than that, that wouldn't come before we, you know. We didn't pay much attention to that until you got older and noticed that. Springfield, now, in the last twenty or ten—I'll say in the last ten years—Springfield's begun to build up something terrific, see. Wherein otherwise, it was not.

Q. I know that you mentioned Dr. Ware. Did we have any other black professional people?

A. Oh yes. There was Dr. Ware and there was Dr. Henderson, and then of course, from Henderson, I think there was Dr. Beverly. There was another. He was of a . . . What was his name? He was a foreigner, had a lot of Chinese in him. Good fellow. Then I forget this other fellow's name. Oh, we've had several professionals like that come in, but Dr. Ware and Dr. Henderson was our pioneers and they were dandy good doctors.

Q. What about lawyers?

A. Well, we had—there was Lawyer Williams, which was fine. And now let me see. Oh, Lawyer Gibbs, he was terrific; he was like this Weiner. (laughter) Then I think there was Lawyer Holman in the younger group; he's in Chicago now. And now, let me see if there's. . . . Oh yes, of course, Theophilus Mann. That's Reverend Mann's cousin.

Q. What about Clarence Davis? Wasn't he a lawyer?

A. Oh, that's right. Clarence Davis, yes, he was a good lawyer. He was a fine lawyer.

Q. During that early time, we didn't have any schoolteachers or anything like that, did we?

A. Well now, let me see. Who was our first? I think we did, but I can't recall.

Q. I thought they told me that Miss Mae Hammons . . .

A. Well, Miss Mae was the first to my knowings in this—in our generation. And I don't know, seems like we did have, but I just can't put my finger on

it. But anyway, Mae was the first here. She taught in Feitshans, or not in . . .

Q. Feitshans High School, or is that Isles?

A. I think it was Iles.

Q. At Iles, yes. She's still out there, isn't she?

A. Yes, Mae is still there. Yes, I knew the family well, that is her mother and father in Decatur. Then I think Mr.—in the dry goods store—I think Mr. Singleton was the first in Myers Brothers. I think they were the first to hire him. And he sold over the counter; he wasn't a janitor, now. He was one of the clerks.

Q. What Singleton is that?

A. That was Bertram. He lived to be ninety-some-odd years old.

Q. Bertram Singleton.

A. Yes. He lived there on East Capitol, him and his wife, for quite some time.

Q. I see. Well, what about the State now—the State was hiring people, this being the capital. What kind of jobs did colored people have?

A. Well, of course, you know there's always a job as a janitor, you know. But there's quite a few that were clerks, you know; they had desks. Of course, there was Taylor, George Taylor. And then others, I know; I can't call just right now, but they fell in pretty good. It's according to how you apply yourself; it's what you know.

Q. Did you hear of anybody talk of discrimination on the job, or anything like that?

A. Well, yes. And even—I think that, you see, the white persons are in the chair. Now, there's much more of them that's qualified than in our group. And naturally, you know, they get in there—well, they're going to help theirs, see.

Now take my daughter—Hessie can do most anything. She can work any of those machines and things like that, but it seems like that—of course, I think it's her, her nerves, sometimes. But she takes these examinations and she comes out second to none. Sometimes she gets an awful good grade but there's always somebody else, probably, who'll get in ahead or something like that. Now, I think she got back on here not long ago at the State and she contemplating on getting a pretty nice job. I don't know what it is, but it's pretty nice and she said that they pay very good; she's just hoping to get it. The lady that is going to get something just a little bit better is trying to work her in as quick as she can. And she wants to get on permanent. She's worked for the State off and on quite some time and she kind of likes it.

Then, too, she likes nursing, too. So she's been—if she's out of one, she can always get in a nursing job. So she's gone back to the State and I hope

that she gets that job for permanent. But you find that there's more of them in the office and, naturally, they—you know, people group together. But I said to her, "Let us think of something that we can start a business of our own."

Q. What did she say to that?

A. She says, "I think about that, too, Mom." That's what we've got to do. We must think what we can do and get out and do it and we know the other fellow's going to come on over because he's not going to let us be by ourselves. Huh-uh. He may not hire many of us, but he's not going to let us be by ourselves. Did you ever notice that?

Q. Yes.

A. Because if the Negro race would put his mind to something—he's not dumb. All he wants is the opportunity. That's all he wants because. . . . And they're watching that, too, and they're not going to let us get too far ahead here, now. (laughs)

Q. So, for instance, does your daughter feel that sometimes she's discriminated against or passed up for promotion?

A. Well, she feels like that she is. Which, as I say, I think they'll always be, as long as the other fellow has the . . .

Q. Handle.

A. Yes. It will always be because he's—now, you know that he's not going to. . . . The first one to be starved would be another group of people. It wouldn't be his, because he's going to see that his cousin and his cousin's cousin and cousins on down. . . . But there is a lot of favoritism, too, towards the other group—our group.

Q. Yes. Have you . . .

A. Because I have received a lot of favors.

Q. Yes?

A. Mm-hmm!

Q. What about politics? Have you been actively participating in politics?

A. Well, I started out (laughs) I started out with a pastor's wife. That was Reverend Brown, he pastored the St. John AME Church. And Mrs. Brown, she was a very fine woman; she was reared and educated by the other group. She come here from Philadelphia; I think she was reared out in the East. So she knew politics, because Reverend Brown—he sure knew politics. (laughs) And so she got me to help her. But, the way she's helping—now, I had to get out and go up and down the street, knock on these doors. But now, they gave her finance to get a group of so many together to do this but then they take the biggest amount.

Well you see, by me being a country girl, I knew that I wasn't working myself to death for nothing. (laughs) So, when she come handing me a little bit, I looked at her and I thought, "Well, thank you Jesus, and goodbye!" (laughs)

Q. Is that right.

A. But I stayed a Republican a long time because my folks was Republican. But I saw that the Republicans were not doing—they'd promise, but they were not doing. They didn't give us a chance; they felt they had the Negro. And then when the Democrat got in, I notice he would—he had more on his staff and it was just a little better. So (laughs) I changed. I forget what year I changed, but I said to my husband—I don't think he changed—and I said, "Well, I'm going to change." I think I went on and voted for--Eisenhower was a . . .

Q. He was Republican.

A. He was a Republican. Well, I didn't care for Eisenhower. Johnson—it was for Johnson; I was for Johnson. And I wasn't for Roosevelt neither, because he was crippled, and I said, "Now, our country's crippled enough without having a crippled president."

But I thought his wife was the one that did it. Yes, he wife was a real politician because FDR—he was a smart man but she was. . . . So anyway, then when Johnson, this what-you-call-it got. . . . Am I saying right? Just before Nixon? Well, then I was for him because I think he's the one that put more of our folks to working.

Q. Who, Johnson?

A. Yes. He went right on out. But I didn't vote for Nixon; I voted for the other man, because Nixon said he wanted it if he got it by a crook and a hook and he wasn't for our people. I'll tell you where I noticed it—when we had a session in Washington, D.C., and they had him to speak. And, oh, if you'd have heard him! And I looked at the man, and I said to—I was sitting with a group from Chicago—and I says, "You know," I said, "that man is just talking." I says, "He don't mean a thing he's saying." So they said, "Martin, you're a case." (laughter) I said, "Now, you listen to him." All he said, "If I get in, I'm going to knock this segregation." I says, "You know what? He's going to put us back in slavery." And I had the women all just dying laughing. And I says, "Now, you just listen." I said, "If that man. . . ." I said, "Huh-uh!" And true enough, he is not for the colored folks.

Q. No, no.

A. You see? I don't know, you can tell if you listen. I'm not so educated in that, and I didn't go as far as if my dad could have give us all of high school, but he didn't do it. You see, Dad got wrapped up in his Masonic, you see, and then he neglected his family. And of course, he got unruly and naturally, Mother just had to leave. But he could have, because we made--Dad made good and he could have educated. But after, you know, we had to help. And then we didn't have quite the knowledge of keep on: If they don't help you, you just keep on.

But it got so heavy that. . . . She had three children then to kind of educate or get through the grade school, so I had to help there—and they wasn't paying too much wages—and my brother helped. Then when she come to town, naturally, she got a little place. Well, she had to enlargen it, so we got involved

that way instead of going on and getting--furthering our education. Because that's what it takes if you get very far in life. But we had to, see, we had to help defray the expense. So it was, Keep what you had, and do the best you can. So that's what we did. But it didn't keep us from studying on the outside. And then, too, belonging to the different organizations and going and seeing and doing you gain a little knowledge, you know. And you can go so far. But I saw that the Republicans wasn't doing anything for our group and the Democrats really had done more.

Q. This was true both nationally and on the state level?

A. Yes. Oh, yes. Yes.

Q. Now, have you ever been a committeewoman or . . .

A. No, I haven't. I've worked among them, you know, and with the material and everything like that, and as I said--in the office, too--but as to. . . . I didn't like it. I didn't like it at all.

Q. It wasn't going right for you or what?

A. Well, now, you know there's a lot of dirt in politics, and I just didn't believe in--I couldn't. . . . You see, then I got in church and teaching in Sunday school and everything like that; it's pretty hard to teach that that you don't do, see. Now, you can gyp your brother. You do unto your brother like you would have him to do unto you, now, it's pretty hard for you to. . . . So I thought I'd get away from politics because I saw what politics will do. Now, sometimes I guess it's all right, but wrong is never right.

Q. Now, this lady that came from Philadelphia--how long did she stay around?

A. Oh, I think she just passed here this last winter. Annie Brown--she used to live with Mother. Annie Brown lived a nice, long time; she was a fine woman. Now, the only thing that I saw there--now, if they give her \$500 or \$600 to operate, and then she just give a few of us \$5 for all the work that we did--it wasn't nothing. You see, now, if it was \$25 or \$35, why. . . . Because it means that you're wearing out shoe sole; You're hitting on these doors and traveling, and it was tiresome. So I said, "No, I'll just find me something else. Huh-uh!" (laughs)

Q. But you have voted . . .

A. Well, I voted in the--I don't think. . . . When we got the vote, I have voted. And I study, and then I used to go to the meetings and things like that to keep abreast so that you would know how to vote. Now, there's no need of you voting if you don't know the officials that you're putting in. Being in Springfield, those that are on the ballot, you know of knew them. You know whether they was really for the Negroes. You know, you could tell in their speeches, because we would go. And that is what our Legislative part here, you see. . . .

Q. Oh yes, I had meant to ask you about . . .

A. We have that Legislative. Now, we didn't out publicly sponsor . . .

Q. A candidate.

A. No, we stayed neutral. But we would learn enough of the men to each individual use his own judgment how to vote, but don't bring it in the club because there's too many people . . .

Q. You more or less give information about each candidate. This is what this department was?

A. Yes, that's right. Well, we could hear them speak, but we'd never invite them to the club, you see, because we didn't want that friction. But we would. . . .

Q. And by this way you were able to educate many of the black people about the candidate and then they used their judgment.

A. Their judgment. Now, I couldn't think of that other—it's Citizenship. See now, we would teach how to be a good citizen, you know. It's Citizenship and Legislative Department. And we would teach how to be a good citizen. So we'd have programs on that and we'd ask others to come in of each group. We'd have, you know, we wouldn't segregate. Because a lot of times we'd have. . . . Let me see, we had one of the officials down from the court house; I think, his name was Judge Martin. We'd have different ones, you know. Yes, we've put on some mighty fine programs. We had some swell speakers, among both groups.

Q. Talking about politics, the mayors that we have had and that you know about—how have they treated our people?

A. Well, we had one called Buddy Capp . . .

Q. That's C-A-P-P?

A. Yes, and he was just, oh, he was fine. He was a wonderful mayor. And then I think [Nelson] Howarth was another one. And this other last—I haven't. . . . I used to work under those; I was on the Human Relations Commission with Howarth.

Q. Do you remember what year this was?

A. Let's see. He's just been out six years, isn't it?

Q. Yes, just about.

A. Just about six years.

Q. Well, it may not be as long as six years because Mayor Telford has not served that long yet, you see. He's been out about three or four years now.

A. Four? Well, anyway I left—I begged to get out, off the committee, because what was it I was doing? Oh, my husband was sick so much and it just was too much for me! They wanted me to stay on, but it was just too much because he was getting me down. And then the meetings I couldn't make and, you know, if you don't make the meetings and understand what you're doing. . . .

And I found—now, there were some things that were going on between the black and white that, you know, the public may have not seen, because a lot of times

they'd do things behind closed doors and work behind closed doors and I could see that. But we had workers that didn't let that bother them; they'd press on forward and it kept showing them that we was not going to stand back and, naturally, they'd have to do something for the black race. So I find that in this life you have to kind of stick up for yourself; you can't be a coward.

Q. That's right, that's right.

A. No, as for myself, I don't think I went to but one place in my life that I could really say that they segregated.

Q. Is that right? Was this here in Springfield?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was this?

A. It was a restaurant on South Sixth, and I happened (laughs) to be working for the woman that it was. It was her cousin that ran that place. That was Mrs. Lovin Coleman; that was the banker's wife. And so she says, "Well, come on, Alice." She says, "We'll go on over here to the restaurant and we'll eat." She says, "We won't stop to fix anything today; we'll go on over here to eat." So just as we got to the door, her cousin just whipped out--brushed on by us, quick, see.

So when we sat down at the table, they sit there. The girls all looked and so she looked up and she says, "Well, what's the matter here?" And then the girl come to her and she says, "Well, we can serve you, but we can't serve her." I says, "What's the matter with you, you can't serve me?" I said, "Then why didn't you put that sign out?" Because I knew that the NAACP would get them. (laughter) I said, "Why didn't you put your sign. . . ." And so then the girl, she stood there and looked.

So Mrs. Coleman, oh, it made Mrs. Coleman so mad she didn't know what to do. She says, "And to think! Is that what he's been doing?" She says, "I'll get him. I'll get him." She says, "Come on out." She says, "I don't want anything to eat, either." (laughs) So we went on out of there. (laughs) Well, it was funny! It was really funny. So then we put the NAACP on him and then he changed, just like that.

Q. Where is this restaurant?

A. It's not there, now. But that was when I was helping her, see. Because I was out in service for, oh, I quit quite some time [ago] because, you see, I went on into the greenhouse after my husband--but you know that. He needed help there and so I went on in.

But, oh, she flew out of there, and she was so irritated! But he changed; after that you could go in and eat. And I know the Watts brothers, they told me that some of them. . . . Now, I helped one of the Watts brothers. His wife had twins, so she asked me to come and help because she knew that I was doing nurse work. And so, one of those brothers that run those Watts stores, they said was--well, this one down here on Eleventh Street.

Q. Eleventh at Ash?

A. Yes, it was prejudiced. And at that time his store was on the other side of the street where that filling station is. So they tell me that he would, if colored folks would go in there, he'd give them a paper cup and then throw it away. And, I don't know what else. So the NAACP, I think it was Johnny Wilson, he went in and he--because Johnny was working much on that; he was the chairman of so much in the NAACP on that. So I think they broke that up.

But it didn't take long to break these things up. I think, mostly, some people just think, "Well, I don't want to eat after colored people," or this and that and the other. Then you have to educate them. I think we all need educated.

Q. Have you heard anybody talk about Walgreen Drug Store, if they . . .

A. No, we used to go in Walgreen's, and I never seen anything. I never seen. You could go into Walgreen's--at least I didn't see no segregation because we'd go in and sit down in those booths or we'd go there to the counter and get what we'd want and they'd readily . . .

Q. And they'd serve you?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, what about the hospitals? Were they discriminating against black people?

A. Well, they tell me that they would. I don't know. Now, I know I didn't--as I say, I was pretty healthy and the few times I've been in the hospital, I couldn't say that we were segregated. Now, we might be, on the q.t., but . . .

Q. But you have never had any experience?

A. No, no. And I see that when they go, sometimes you'd see some of our group down this little. . . . Then we'd see them in the rooms on the. . . . Now, my husband, most times he's always had nice rooms, here where you could look out the window on the street, you know.

Q. But lately, they don't--they are quite open now.

A. Well, naturally, yes. I don't see any. And the nurses and things. . . . Of course, you know, there's good and bad in all, and even our group. Oh, I'm telling you, we've got some mighty bad group out at these homes, taking care of these people. They don't care; they're a younger group. They carry on too much ya-ya-ya and foolishness. And, I guess, because they can't get the right kind of help, they just have to take anything. And they're so loud; I noticed that. And they hee-haw. We need a lot of training, yet.

Q. Yes, we do. Maybe they don't pay them enough, why they can't get the right kind of workers.

A. Well, maybe they don't know enough; you have something there.

Q. Yes, that's a good point. (laughs)

A. Now, I'm telling you, Reverend, some of our people—you'd be surprised. Some of those girls, oh my.

END OF SIDE ONE

Q. The club that you worked with for so long, and working and with some of these other groups, now—these newer groups—I imagine that this will help them a great deal to present themselves for the public.

A. Well, I'm hoping. Too, if you don't get an overflow of those that don't care, you know, and if they'll stay away from drugs. You see? What did you think of our revival the other night?

Q. Oh, I think it's just marvelous. Young people are doing a great job. Well, this is where a group like your group and the church can really try to help and counsel.

A. That's right. I'm glad to see, I'm just so glad to see them in the church. My prayer is that I hope they're deeply concerned.

Q. Well, it's real . . .

A. It'll pay off if they stay around the church and—because I thought we had a fine group.

Q. Oh, we certainly did.

A. They sang beautiful.

Q. And these young men really brought good messages.

A. Oh, they could. . . . I really enjoyed their messages.

Q. Well, let me ask you this, after that day that you and Mrs. Coleman went into this restaurant, did you and Mrs. Coleman ever talk? Did she ever talk to you about it.

A. Well, yes. She said that she was going to talk to the young man. And then, you see, the NAACP got ahold of him and, of course, that broke that up. Oh yes, after that we could go in there.

Q. Did you ever go back in there?

A. I didn't, but I saw others who did, you know.

Q. Well, oh, go ahead.

A. I was just going to say, that day we had worked pretty hard and we were kind of tired because, as a rule, I could always cook so good I'd rather eat my own cooking (laughs) than to, you know, to fool with what-you-call-it. So I never frequented the restaurants and things very much when I was younger, because I had a home and I prepared my food in the home, so I would always rather eat at home.

Q. All right. Let me ask you this, Mrs. Martin, what about your neighbors that you had? For instance, you told me you lived on South Sixteenth Street?

A. I lived on South Seventeenth and wouldn't wish to have. . . . The neighbors was, I don't know, the neighbors was all just congenial. We never had what you'd call a falling out and bad neighbors. Even when my children would go to school, I never had any trouble in the school because we taught our children to do the things that was right. And then we wouldn't take the child's say-so if there was something; we'd go to the party, see.

I know that when we lived up in the nine hundred block, everybody, I don't know, they just was really nice. If we'd go to the PTA together, we'd have a fine time. And if the table was set or anything--we'd just all chip in, the children and the grown-ups. And, we didn't have no stand-back or somebody that didn't like Negroes, and I guess those that didn't, probably didn't come.

And then when I moved out here, I wouldn't wish--now, when we first moved, I think across the street, he said that someone out here didn't want Negroes. So the fellow said, "Well, now they got to have a place just the same as anybody else." No, I think they got up a petition. He says, "No, I'm not going to sign no paper." And so, I think, one or two others, they tell me, wouldn't sign no paper. So, we had to laugh, because a colored man tilled this out here in a garden--these four lots--and he belonged to the Odd Fellows and my husband belonged to the Odd Fellows and so he told him, he says, "I'd like to see you have that place and I'd like to see you build on there."

That was Mr. Wright; he lived on--his son died here not long ago--oh, what was that boy's name? Walter? No, it wasn't Walter. He died just here the other day. And so, my husband bought; we told him that we'd take it, because the other place was kind of small and I wanted more rooms.

So after we got out here--now, I'm a poor hand to visit; I always kept busy. Naturally, I was busy because I belonged to so much and it kept me going. But I spoke to everybody--whether they spoke or not, I'd speak. And so, they all, "The Martins. . . ." I know, Halloween night, the kids--a group of them will go by here and say, "Oh, that's the Martins. Don't bother them because they're good folks." (laughs) You could hear them say it--kids. "Don't, don't, don't bother the Martins. Don't, don't. . . ." Mark up or tear up.

Q. Oh, mark up their place.

A. Yes, "Don't do that." Oh, they'd come and knock--trick or treat--but, "Don't, don't." And we'd be sitting there listening and I thought it was the cutest thing. And big boys, you know, "Don't, don't bother the Martins." And my children got along very fine in school.

Q. What school did your children . . .

A. They went to Iles.

Q. Iles School.

A. Yes, and Feitshans. They graduated from Feitshans. They were pretty nice; (laughs) you could look out into my backyard and there'd be sixteen or twenty white boys playing with my boy. And one time there was so many of them, I went out and said to the group, I says, "My, my, you boys!" I says, "I just bet you all beat up on Jess," I said, "behind our backs." I says, "I know you boys beat up on him." They said, "No, we don't, Mrs. Martin." Says, "He's got a terr-r-r-r-ific punch!" (laughter) He's like his daddy; his daddy could whip—he usually could whip two men. Now, that third one would be kind of hard, but he could whip two men.

And I noticed one time, Brother came from school and on the other side of the street he just laid his books down. I think he laid them down to tie his shoe. So, one of the white boys came by and kind of kicked them. And he just kind of looked up at him like that and never said nothing. So the boy kicked them again. He looked up, and he said, "Don't you do that no more." So the boy kicked them again, and just with that time he knocked that boy! (laughs) I never said—I was sitting over here on the porch—I never said a word. I never acted just like I saw it. But he didn't do it anymore, you see.

And Brother ain't said—now, when he told him the second time not to knock those books, but he did it, you see, and then Jess gave him one. And just quick—you didn't know he even was reaching out there for the boy. So anyway, the children would get along fine because I told him, "Don't start no fight, but if a fight begins, don't come home whipped. Don't do that. Just don't run." So we always got along just fine.

I know my principal—my foster girls, they got into it over at the school—so he called me and told me that he was going to expel them, expel the girl. I says, "Oh no, you won't. Huh-uh, Mr. Wagner. No, you won't." I said, "That girl's just seventeen." "Well," he said, "Mrs. Martin, she done beat this girl." I says, "Well, the girl would have beat her." Then I said, "Now, you wait." So I asked him, "Wouldn't you rather deal with ignorance in youth than to wait until it become adult?" I said, "Now you know, it's very hard—it's hard to turn an adult." And, I said, "Mr. Wagner, you just think over things." And I told him a lot more than that.

So when we quit talking, he says, "Well, you're right, Mrs. Martin." No, you know, you have to know how to handle a person. And then, in those days, I studied, studied very hard, because there's no need—and don't lose your head. If you want to make a point, keep cool.

Q. You're right, right.

A. See, don't get hotheaded, because you can't even think what you're going to say. So I always used that and I find I got along pretty good in life. Even when I was abroad.

That was another thing, this New Yorker. Of course, I could tell that she was a woman kind of the world, and they got to gambling on the bus. The lady that was with me, she was from Ohio, and we was just much alike. Now, we got on first and got this certain seat. So when we got off, they got in the seat that we were in so they could play four—four of them wanted to play. So we never said anything, but when we got back on—there is a certain part of the bus, sometimes, you like sit—so we sat in the chair that they had

got in, our chair before. So when this woman got back on, oh, she raised cane! She just reared, "Oh, get this and that and other. That's our seat." I says, "No, we had it." "Oh, this and. . . ." And then she just—and I let her talk.

So I said to the girl—because I was missionary of my group in the church, so you have to watch yourself. See, we were carrying goodwill. So I said to the girl, I says, "Let's get off and let them have it." She says, "No, I ain't." I says, "Now, listen"—now, she's just about as old as I am—I said, "No, now listen. Let us keep our head." And all that time she's just arearing up there and everybody's looking at them and looking at us. I says, "Come on, let's skip it." She says, "When you get off, I'm going to get that seat." I says, "No." I says, "You come and get it now." I says, "Come on, so-and-so."

So we went on and sat in the back part of the seats. And all the other passengers on there was so mad they didn't know what to do! Now, wouldn't you lots rather have them mad at her than us?

Q. That's correct, yes.

A. So I left. I happened to think, "Now, wait here. You're carrying goodwill and you're the missionary of the Union Baptist Church of the White Rose Missionary Society and you just can't. . . ." You see, you have to—you just. . . .

So anyway, when the national president, Mrs. Rosie Gregg—see, the conductor and them, they got it all. And then our guide got it, he was standing there. But Rosie wasn't with us at the particular time because she was ill quite often on our trip, but she met up with us. And they told her what happened. Did she bawled them out; did she ever bawl those women out! I said to the girl that was with me, I said, "Now, you see." I said, "Now it's our time to rejoice that we tried to do the right thing." And I said, "We don't boast, but we rejoice that we happened to think to do the right thing." Because, you see, we could have acted very naughty, too.

So, they called me after that "the little Christian girl" on the trip. I just had no—the what-you-call-it, he looked out for me, and our national president said, "Mrs. Martin," said, "he's crazy about you." Said, "He just doesn't think there's anybody on this trip but you." And I noticed it, but I didn't let on, you know. He go and he'd say, "Where's little Miss Martin." Of course, I guess I was the shortest thing in the group.

But then there's a way you can carry yourself and other people, too. So I don't know; I tell my children, "If you don't get along, it's because you don't trust God. You've got to take God with you every place you go. You can't leave Him out of the picture because He'll make you great when you think you ain't nothing.

Yes, I oftentimes get letters from some of the ones that was on the trip with me. They wanted me to go here not long ago to the Holy Land; they had gotten up a group. But I couldn't go because Jess was sick all and along, and I. . . . See, we were intending to go to the Holy Land when we went, but we didn't get there because there was another group here in the States that it was time for the guide to come back to New York to take them. So we had to cut our trip. . . .

Q. Cut yours short.

A. Yes, yes, we had to cut it short. Oh my, Mrs. Gregg, she hated it awfully bad, but it was just one of those things. But I think she's went since; I know she has. And I could have went if it hadn't of been for Dad being sick so much. And, I just couldn't leave him, huh-uh. I left him--well, he was ailing then, and I think that was in 1949. He was ailing then, but he wasn't in the hospital. He was under the doctor's care.

Q. Now, do you have grandchildren?

A. Yes, I have seven grandchildren and, I think, it's five great-grand, and they're all in Chicago.

Q. Is that right. So when you go up there you have a round to make, or do they come to see you?

A. Oh, they were--well, let's see, how many didn't get here? I think all of my grandchildren were here for the funeral. One of them, he flew in, and he says, "Grandmother," he says, "I just couldn't stay away," he said, "but I got to go right back." So he flew in and he didn't stay overnight because he had to get back and get to work. And so the others were all at the funeral. And I think I had one niece that didn't get here.

Q. Didn't you tell me about a neighbor, when you were living someplace, who had moved to Springfield?

A. Oh, you mean the one that was kind of prejudiced?

Q. Yes.

A. Yes, she was. She come from Oklahoma. No, I think she came from Colorado. And she was taught that Negroes would eat her up.

Q. Oh, yes?

A. Yes, that's what she told me. And I says, "Well, common sense!" I says, "Do any of your group eat any. . . ." I says, "They haven't done that since Columbus sailed across the waters." I said, "Now, they tell me that they got so hungry and without a provision that they ate one another, but it wasn't long before they got here."

And, the way I got her over there is, I pulled the picket off the fence--and I did it late at night, see--and the little boys got through to play with my children. You see, children are innocent. So when she came out to call them, I rushed out. And I spoke, and she spoke like she was scared to death. I said, "This is a lovely day, isn't it." And I says, "Come on over; I'd like to talk to you." Well, she didn't know whether to come or not. But, finally, I kept on after her and so I got her over there, and then she told me the story. That she was taught that the colored people would eat. . . .

And so I wanted to know how would they go about at it? She couldn't tell me. And I said, "No, Honey." I said, "If you was out in the country and

you would meet up with a colored man," I said, "he would do his best to try to help you find your way and he would not hurt you." I said, "Not any quicker than your group." And I says, "Men are men." And I says, "We have some men," I said, "and they think." And I said, "Some we have that don't think. And those that don't think will harm you." I said, "Men that think—and women alike. . . ."

Well, I give her good, and then of course, I was with the Bible and I just give her a lot of biblical work. So I won her over. She got to the place that my children and her children could play—and they were beautiful little children, redheads. You know, as a rule, redheads are kind of nice looking little children. So I've seen quite a few that just didn't like colored folks, and have won them over. It's the way you go about it. You can tell it; you can tell there's a fear, and some people think they're better than others.

Even my own race. Let's see, where did we—oh, it was up in Wisconsin. Or Michigan? No, it was in Michigan, and we was all taking our pictures. And these two ladies was from, I think, they were from California. And I went to sit down, and they didn't want me to sit down there! I don't know whether they were holding this place. I kind of looked at them and I thought—and then I kind of moved over. It was as though they was trying to keep me out of there. So along came Mrs. Gregg and she was trying to seat them. And I said, "Look. . . ." She says, "Sit right down there, Mrs. Martin! Sit right down there!" And she saw it; she probably saw it when she was coming down the line, I don't know. But anyway I thought, "Well, what's the matter with these women?"

And after that they felt so guilty—and I felt bad for them. There was something I said to them afterwards, I don't know what it was, and they said, "Oh, Mrs. Martin, we were in the wrong." But they had to say it because Mrs. Gregg told me, "Sit down there." So I sat down. (laughs) I don't know what made them do it. You know, just some people.

Then let's see there was someplace else I was. Oh, I've been among them where they—sometimes I just think people just don't think. It isn't because you're colored; they'll do their own that way. And we the same way. You know, we hurt ourselves, a lot of times, more than the other fellow because we're prejudiced within ourselves.

Q. Oh yes, oh yes.

A. Because I've seen it.

Q. Now, do you have any of those pictures on any of those trips that you have taken, or any picture that you could show me?

A. Oh yes, I have several. (moves away from microphone; part of narrative inaudible) Here's my family, if you care to look at them, here. This is my oldest girl.

Q. What's her name?

A. Frances. And this is the next girl, that's Alice Louise. That's Frances Dorothy, Alice Louise. And that's Hessie. My son, I thought I had his picture but I guess I didn't—didn't bring it out here. I guess

I did, too, but I don't. . . . And these are the graduation pictures. Now, this is my oldest daughter here, and I think that's the Osby girl, and I forget that girl's name and I know her, too. She's, oh, I know her, too, but I can't call her name right now. Some of these on here, I don't. . . .

Q. Now, is this a school graduation?

A. Yes. See, Graduation of Class of February, 1933."

Q. And these are some others, these that I have?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. This one is from Feitshans?

A. Let's see. Now then, where is my daughter? I think, now, is it a daughter? I think that's her over there. That's her. I think that's a Murrell girl. That's a colored girl, too. I think both of--all three of these, I think, is colored there. And, here, this is a younger picture. There's my daughter. This lady was just wild about her. And they always got along very fine in their schools. And, of course, this is my boy, down here.

Q. Oh yes, when he graduated from Iles.

A. Yes, they all went to Iles. Then they all came out of Feitshans. And, of course, this here was the old Union [Baptist Church]. That's Reverend and Sister Emanuel. And I had from Eisenhower, but I can't find that certificate to save my life. Of course, that's some of my work. I was going to ask you, could you use that picture? I don't know as you can.

Q. Yes, I could use this.

A. Then, of course, this is some of my clubwork. This is out to the Tomb. I think I was president; I think I was. And then, of course, I'm standing there with that hat on. (laughter) And of course, that's my dear friend; she's organist and pianist of the Union.

Q. This was some time back?

A. Yes, she's since passed, and I think that he has also. So, I don't know if I have anything--well, that's the home; that's this home.

Q. That's your home. Well, I'd like to get a picture of this. Now, I'll take care of these and will get them back to you.

A. Well, all right. Of course, that's Hessie when she was younger; and let's see, this is a diploma from Feitshans, I think. That's Frances'. So the main one that I had, I couldn't . . .

Q. Couldn't find.

A. No. That there is the certificate of my work that I did for the Urban--no, it isn't . . .

Q. Community spirit.

A. For the Urban League, isn't that?

Q. No, "Chairman of Central Interracial Committee, Sangamon Council of Social Agencies." Yes, that's the Urban League, yes.

A. Yes, I had taken the advance aid and they wanted me to teach it, but that's when I had to go help him in the greenhouse and I didn't get to teach. I wanted to show you one of the--I put together. . . .

Q. Okay. Now, here's a beautiful picture here. What is this one?

A. Now, who does that look like that's on there? Oh, this is the work from the Urban League, too. We studied nursing and everything, you know, and there I am. I advanced in that what-you-call-it.

Q. Now, what group is this?

A. That's the club.

Q. That's your club, okay. Is this written by . . .

A. No, it isn't, but we had her as our speaker. She's a Miss Nash; she was of the Educational.

Q. This is when you were president?

A. This is me here.

Q. When you were president of the group?

A. Yes. And this is the past district president, and she was our speaker at that time. (a pause while they look at more things) And this is one of our programs; maybe you'd like to look over it. That's when I . . .

Q. Okay, thank you.

A. And here we are again; you see, the same woman. No, she's not. This is Miss Riva Hill of East St. Louis; she's past state president. I didn't get to be state president; I wouldn't take it at the time because I had to go in the greenhouse, and I knew that if I did I just couldn't give it--you know. But I'm past vice, so that takes care of everything. And of course, here's our president now; Mrs. Reid is our president of our club not.

Q. What is this occasion?

A. Let me see that again. That was one of our club meetings. (pause)

Q. You are in the center?

A. Yes. And this here is a picture of one of my foster children. She was so near to the other group (laughs)--on the other side.

Q. How many children have you fostered?

A. Well, I was just trying to—oh, I've fostered, I think, over fifty, but that don't near count the day children that I had with all in all. I've had over a hundred.

Q. Is that right. Now, who's this?

A. Now, this girl is one of my foster girls. And she and he was going to run off and get married, and I caught them just in time and I gave her a wedding. This is the wedding picture; that's it. That's my daughter, and this is Faye, and this is her husband. And I forget this girl's name. I think this is—oh, my daughter was going—Kelly; this is a Kelly. Now I forget this girl; I know her name, too, because they all ran in the group, but I just can't say it right now. But however, she was going to run off and I was so glad. . . . And I gave her a little wedding.

Q. You caught her in time. (laughs)

A. Yes. Yes, I told her there's no need of going out of the county, that Sangamon County taken care of her; now, she just stay and marry in Sangamon County. So, that's what. . . . Oh, this is one of our Heroines of Jericho pictures and I think I'm standing back here someplace. I think that's a state doings when I was the Worthy Matron of my group.

Q. Now, is this you here?

A. I think it is, yes. And this is when I went to Hawaii. (laughs)
Don't you see it looks kind of funny. (laughs)

Q. Yes. Oh, yes.

A. And here I stand back here. Sometimes I look like I've taken a picture that I like of myself and sometimes I didn't. Now this was—you know this Miss Johnson in Chicago of the Johnson and Johnson's—this is her.

Q. Oh, is that right.

A. And this is Mrs. Rosie Gregg that was our national president. And this was the lady that entertained, and she's passed. Most all of them are, you know, passed. So that's when we went to Hawaii.

Q. Oh my, that's a nice picture.

A. Oh, we had a grand time. We had, oh, I just can't tell you how it. . . . Of course, you probably have been there.

Q. No, I haven't had the privilege of being there yet, but I plan to go there sometime.

A. Well, I'm telling you, it's just lovely to visit and see the other people and see how they carry on; and I don't know, it's just very enjoyable.

Q. Yes, I imagine so.

A. So I don't know. Oh yes, I must tell you of this lady. Let me see, now. Oh yes, and this boy. And that's my brother and his wife, I think, but he's since deceased.

Q. Now, this is the picture we saw before. This one; this is the speaker.

A. Yes, that is. I wanted to show you this here boy of mine. Oh, there he is. Now, that's the last large boy I had, and his name was Richard; and here he is again. Now, he's up in this—what do you call the school that they had for the boys—Job Corps, something like that, and he learned to be a printer in it. But I don't know what he's doing now.

Q. You don't hear from him?

A. Well, no, he's up there with his father, and, of course, that's been two or three years ago. Now, this lady was the executive secretary from Africa. Now, let me see what part. I think it was from Johannesburg, and I entertained her here in my home.

Q. That's the same lady, here?

A. Yes, that's her. And then I have a larger group with more of the women on it and Mrs. Ashurst is in it.

Q. Now, was this picture taken—where?

A. Here. Right here in the house. And I have Mrs. Ashurst; I did really want to. . . . (they look through more pictures)

Q. That's very nice.

A. Well, I wouldn't take anything—you know, the thing of it is, I asked those that I know that they were in . . .

Q. Now, is this Mr. McPack's daughter?

A. Yes, that's, oh, what's her name? I know her name. Now, this here is the past state—and I think she's national now—of the women's club, of the white group. And we'd have Mrs. DeBrun to come to speak to us quite often. And this is—oh, what is that girl's name? And of course, that's Mrs. Cancelor; that was Bob Cancelor's mother. So, this is part of the same group. And of course, that is—this is her mother, and this is her mother and she's there. (laughter) And I've taken care of all her children—she's had five, and I have taken care of the five of her children.

Q. That's real, real nice.

A. Now, I had Mrs. Ashurst on here with that group and I can't find it. No, that's one of our club.

Q. Is this Mrs. Ashurst here? Is this the one?

A. Oh yes, this is it. There she is again. And this is Mrs. Findley, and this is Mrs. Osby.

Q. Is this Mrs. Simeon Osby?

A. Simeon's wife. And of course, there's ugly me. And this is Mrs. Page; she was a schoolteacher down in Kentucky years ago, and a very brilliant woman. And this is Mrs. Vincent. Of course, Mrs. Ashurst.

Q. Is this Mrs. Dixon here?

A. This is Mrs. . . .

Q. She goes to Grace?

A. No, she's St. Paul. This is Mrs. Murrell on East Capitol.

Q. Yes. She used to work at the . . .

A. Yes, she's on East Capitol, yes. I didn't study much about Africa and I said, now Simeon Osby got me to entertain her because he said that the white group brought her here, and so he said she should kind of get among her own folks and know something about them.

Q. And she was what now?

A. She was the executive secretary of something; I forget, now, what it was.

Q. From Africa.

A. Yes. Johannesburg. And so . . .

Q. But of a woman's club in Johannesburg. She was the executive secretary?

A. No, she was of the high up State; she worked kind of like in the State, up with the officials.

Q. Oh, is that right. State official from Johannesburg?

A. Yes, and I didn't get all of her history because when he called me, I didn't think--as I said, I hadn't read up enough on Africa and so I thought, "Now, I need somebody that can kind of go along with her without saying 'uh-huh' and 'uh-huh,'" you know. (laughter) So, I got these here women. (laughter) They belonged to the guild, and they read. And I said, "Now, I know what I'll do." And so I said to Simeon, I said, "Well, all right." But I said, "Now, you tell your wife she must come." So I got up the group that you see--Mrs. Ashurst and them. And those women, they study, you know, foreign countries and things like that, wherein I knew a little but not enough to go along. So I prepared the luscious food while they entertained. (laughter)

Q. Well, you did a great service, too. I mean, everybody did . . .

A. If you don't know, yourself, why, you get somebody that do and you just keep your mouth shut, kind of. (laughter)

Q. Well, Mrs. Martin, you have done very well. I mean that every person's contribution is very needed, so it's nothing for us to really feel ashamed,

you know, about. You know, the Lord made all of us and . . .

A. Well, it's here. Now, it isn't because--now, when they wanted me to take the president of the state, as I said, my husband was in the greenhouse; he was sick, then often, and I hadn't been bothered with it. And then, too, I didn't want. . . . You know, you have to have finance, and I didn't want to rob my home. Because, see, I'd of had to go to Washington, D.C., and I'd had to keep up with the women. And then, too, I'd had to of studied pretty hard in order to--which, if you see you don't know, then you get your books and study. And you study, you can get through, even though you don't know it all. And that that you don't know, then you don't talk on that. You just kind of stay away from it. So, that's the way I have tried.

I've said, "We long for the best education, but take what you got and do the best you can." As I said, I knew that the woman was pretty high up, and so I got the folks--the best I could--in Springfield to cope with her, see.

Q. That's good. That's what needed to have been done. Now, do you play the piano?

A. Well, I used to. Used to play good, but I ding on it, now, enough to carry my song.

Q. Keep your fingers . . .

A. That's right. But I don't--the girls all, they played. And, I think the younger girl and my oldest daughter, they taken to it. But the second girl, she didn't. She learned a little bit, but she didn't take to it.

Q. Well, while we're thinking, is there anything that you can think of that you want to tell us about? Now, is this Illinois Association of Club and Guild that's a part of your clubwork?

A. Oh yes, this is the directory, and this has all the. . . . See, we're divided in three: The northern district, Chicago; the central district; and we have a southern district. That's all in here, and we're listed as central and all in northern and southern. We have our state meeting. We first have our district meeting, then we have our state meeting, and then our national meeting. And it's the national that advanced these here trips. They generally, as a rule, have three, and anyone can take any tour they want. If they want to tour the city, or if they want to tour an island, or if they want to go abroad, see.

Q. And they have this each year?

A. Every two years. Every two years. So. . . .

Q. Now, did your husband build this house?

A. Yes, we built it from the ground.

Q. Was he a bricklayer, too?

A. No. I'll tell you, he didn't; he had somebody to build it. There was

a white fellow that built it and I forget his name. And now, the remodeling was done by Reverend Walters. See, Reverend Walters put the porch in and he put the siding on. And Mr. Lee--across the street here on the other side, the second house from this one--he did this work, the plastering up here. He did that.

Q. That's beautiful. That's very nice. This is a nice home.

A. Well, we liked it, and thank the Lord that He, you know, gave us vision to kind of prepare a home.

Q. Now, this is where all of your children were born?

A. No, my children were borned up in the other home on South Seventeenth, 919 South Seventeenth.

Q. But they grew up here?

A. Yes, I think the youngest girl was six years old when we moved out here. And my foster children, they all came out of Feitshans. Yes, I had them to continue, you know, graduate from high school. And they're all doing very well, very well! They're just doing fine. I'm so proud of that because, you know, when you take other childrens into your home, you take better care of them than you do your own, or at least you feel like you want to. And I always tried to do my best by them, because I'd oftentimes think that they had no mother and that's one of the greatest things on earth.

Q. Now, Mrs. Martin, if we can think of anything else--I mean, we have covered a pretty good span, but if we can think of anything else that sometime you'd want me to come back, or if you think of anything, I'd be glad to come back sometime to talk some more with you if you can think of anything.

A. Well, I just hope that I have given you a little something that'll be of value. If I can think of anything, I would and I would let you know. But, right now I can't think of anything that makes me more happier than to know that my children are all doing fairly good. The youngest one of the family, she has branched out on her own. She's got a home, and she's going to stick to it. And then, she's bought a lot from her daddy and I, and she's contemplating on building. So you know she must be looking forward. She said that the home that she has now, that she could rent it out and then live in her other home, you know.

Q. So maybe she's going to be building pretty soon?

A. Well, if she keeps her job, it won't be long.

Q. Well, that's wonderful.

A. So, that makes you happy to think that they're trying to do something. And then my grandson, the children, I think they're doing very fine. One of them are working--that's Frances, her boy, her oldest boy. He's working for the Brinks Company. He's got quite a head on him. He wanted to be a policeman, and I told him what he's going to do? He's going from one dangerous

job to another, but he's dying to get on with the police.

Q. Well, you know it takes somebody to do these kind of jobs.

A. That's right. He handles a lot of finance. And he said that one of the other group said to him one time, says, "Man, you're handling all that money." He says, "You ought to take some of that money." He says, "Now listen here, man, that money don't belong to me, and that money don't mean a thing to me." He says, "I don't want it!" And when he told me that, oh, it made me feel so proud.

Q. You have done a good job bringing them up.

A. Well, yes, I used to keep them. I kept them until I became ill with the virus. She was a floorwalker for Altman's in Chicago. But, I had to tell her to come and get her children because I was ill and I just was too weak, you know, to fool with them anymore. But they've all tried to do the best they can. And of course, this is the one that worked for Sears.

Q. And she works in Chicago?

A. Yes, yes. She goes to school. She seems not to . . .

END OF TAPE