

Interviewee: Carolyn Jones
Interviewer: Sarah Lavender
Transcriber: Andrew Sterling

My name is Sarah Lavender and I am interviewing Carolyn Jones for the Oral History Project, Hurt Park neighborhood.

SL: Ms. Jones could you please state your full name for the record.

0.00.10.9

CJ: My name is Carolyn Anne Johnson Jones

0.00.15.6

SL: Alright, I have a few questions for you Ms. Jones. When and where were you born?

0.00.21.9

CJ: I was born in Roanoke, VA, September 8, 1949.

0.00.28.2

SL: How long have you lived in Roanoke and on what streets and neighborhoods have you lived?

0.00.34.2

CJ: I have lived in Roanoke my entire life. I've never moved away, um, to live in another city or town or state. Um, I lived, I grew up the first 6 ½ years of my life on Salem Avenue in Southwest. Um, At the age of between 6 ½/sevenish, we, my grandmother remarried and we moved to 13th Street Southwest. I lived there until I married in 1970 and moved to Northwest city in Roanoke.

0.01.13.4

SL: Tell me you about your parents, your brothers and sisters. Did you have extended family living nearby?

0.01.20.1

CJ: I grew up with, uh, my adopted grandmother. Uh, she raised me, took me in at the age of around 60. Uh, she raised me. She took my sister in, uh, four years later and we lived together there until my sister was 9 and I was 14. My mother then married and, uh, someone in the service and my sister then went to live with my mother and leaving just me and my grandmother. Um, my sister, um, traveled with my, um, mother and my new stepfather. They later had 2 other children, my sister Angela, um, and my brother Mark.

0.02.09.3

SL: Describe your house for us, uh, what was it like, was it brick, did it have a garden? Yes, the house where you grew up.

0.02.21.1

CJ: The first house I grew up in was on Salem Avenue in Southwest and it was really just a 3 room house. Uh, the first room you got into when you walked in the door was the living room. And the next room we had was, um, considered the bedroom and the last room was considered the kitchen. And on the back porch, we had a bathroom and you could go in that little room on the back there on the porch and you, uh, snapped a little door and was outside on the back porch. And, uh, I remember the seat to the, the seat to the uh toilet flushed itself and you had to hold it down and I was tiny. I always had difficulty holding it down to get on it and then I felt like it was going to flop me right off, you know, before I could get off. And then, uh, in the living room we also had a bed for when extra people come, would come to visit, other family members from out of town would come to visit and, um, the bedroom, we had lots of beds 'cause there was my sister, me, and I think we had another little, small tiny bed in there. And in the kitchen we had one of those old-fashioned wood cook stoves. The smoke went up the chimney and outside. And my grandmother's a really, really good cook and she cooked a lot in there. It was always warm. On Saturdays, we'd bathe a lot in the tin tub and she'd warm up water on the cook stove and then pour it into the tub, tin tub, and we'd get in and take a Saturday night bath

and between there we'd just kinda washed up and pails and pans, you know like those long tub pans. And, uh, we also had a pot belly stove in the living room to keep our house warm. We had coal and wood stoves to warm with.

0.04.12.0

SL: Very nice.

0.04.13.5

CJ: No air conditioning, (interviewer snickers) just fans occasionally in the summertime.

0.04.13.6

SL: Wow. The house lived in next on, I think what you said was 13th Street. What kind of house was that like?

0.04.23.9

CJ: Well, it was so much better because the house on Salem was right there on the, right there on the Salem Avenue highway, like, lots of traffic, uh, We had, the house next door to me had, uh, a filling station we called it back then right next door to it. There were lots of cars coming in to be repaired. Cars coming in and out to get gasoline. And next door to me was an empty lot on the other side and, uh, and a big house next door to it and right next door to that was a big hotel. Uh, it wasn't a, it was a hotel that was known for lots of people going in and out, different hours of the night and my grandmother kept us inside a lot, she wouldn't let us out much to play because she was worried about, you know, people moving to and fro, the gasoline people coming in to get gas, the traffic, it was dangerous really. So we had a little small fence around our house and we weren't allow too much out. Um, we moved to 13th Street, it was a lot different. We had a big fenced in back yard. It was nice. It was a small house. Also, we lived on a hill. We could ride our bikes and we had to be careful not to ride too fast because it was a steep hill (interviewer laughs), steep slope. Um, I remember my sister got a tricycle into a wreck soon after we got there. She wrecked going down the hill riding her trike too fast. But, uh, our living room there, we had a front yard with some shade trees and we had a big front porch at that house too. We loved sitting on the front porch, especially in the summertime. And then we had the living room and we had, uh, two bedrooms which was nice. My sister and I shared a bedroom with a big brass bed and she had a dresser and I had a dresser. And then my mother, my grandmother, had a bedroom of her own and then we had a nice little kitchen on the back and a little small closed in back porch that we'd sit out there too also sometimes and eat, a little small back porch and underneath that back porch, we used to have our playhouse. It was really like a crawl space, a tall crawl space and we'd play doctor, teacher and nurse under there. Even in the winter, we'd sneak out there and make and play house and we'd make mudpies in the summertime under there and serve the neighborhood children. And we'd play school, church and we played teacher and we loved all those things. And we had a huge back yard with blackberries growing and raspberries growing in it.

0.06.56.5

SL: Wow.

0.06.56.6

CJ: And a big, my grandmother threw some peaches out there, peach, she threw some peach seeds out there and we prayed they'd grow and they grew into two beautiful peach trees. And we ate peaches and plums. We had damsons and plums and my grandmother canned and we had lots of pickles and canned fruits from those trees and lots of food and things 'cause she was from the country and they would bring in things from the country from her family at both those houses and we'd always have canned goods. I wrote stories about these things.

0.07.30.6

SL: It sounds like you had a great time with all, you had a whole fruit thing going on in the back yard.

0.07.36.6

CJ: It was very nice.

0.07.36.7

SL: So, you mentioned some of the activities that you participated in, um, what are any, um, let's just say structured activities with your church or with your neighborhood that you participated in?

0.07.48.2

CJ: Oh yes. Um, can I name the names?

0.07.52.1

SL: Yes

0.07.52.2

CJ: I, uh, went to, we went to several churches. We went to Jerusalem Baptist Church when I lived on 10th Street, near 10th Street and Salem Avenue. When I lived on Salem Avenue, I went to, I think it was Norfolk Avenue I believe it was, we went to Jerusalem Baptist Church from the time I was a wee little thing and my grandmother would take us food in her basket and hide 'em in there. We'd sneak and eat 'em between, uh, services and things. We had church services and she kept us fed troops so we wouldn't cry. And later my sister, you know, was born 4 years later. She would take us to church, always in church. Um, then we moved to, um, 13th Street and she joined a different church, um, I'm trying to remember, we visited lots of churches on 12 ½ Street, that was a Holiness Church I remember. And we visited, also we visited several, also we visited several, Rose of Sharon. I remember going to that church. It was a Holiness Church. Uh, Jerusalem was a Baptist Church.. And eventually, we went to, um, um, on Roy (??) Avenue to Morninstar Baptist Church where I joined that church and made it my church home and I became quickly friends with the secretary of Sunday School and I was her helper and shortly after that I became the Sunday School teacher and I began really young, teaching, like, 4 year-olds, 3, 4 year-olds Sunday School every Sunday morning when I was about 13, 12 or 13 when I was doing that. And I was baptized there at the age of 12, uh, we didn't have a pool at that church. It was an underground church when I first went there. It was all underground and then we slowly build upstairs as it is known today. Its a, right now the church goes through the block. Its so much bigger now and um, the church didn't have a pool when I joined the church and there were about 7 of us to join that day and we were baptized by Noah C. Taylor (??) at the First Baptist, uh, at the High Street Baptist Church on High Street over where right now is where the Martin Luther King statue is on the bridge. The Church was the High Street Baptist Church over there at the time. Now its in Northwest Roanoke. Um, that's where we were baptized. They were our sister church. They had a pool and we didn't and they baptized all of our members.

0.10.26.7

SL: Very nice. What kind of work did your family do?

0.10.30.9

CJ: Um, the lady that raised me, um, well, she had several names. First her name was, her maiden name was Edna Dixon. Her father was Irish and Black. This is what she told me and her mother was some Native-American and Black. She come from a farming area. Her first husband was a miner. She had lived in West Virginia. But the kind of work she did was she had always been used to cleaning houses. As they do it now, they call it cleaning houses, back in those days we would call it other names. It was sort of like a maid. She had, she also worked as a nurse-maid. She also babysit other people's children over on Patterson Avenue on Ferdinand in Southwest.

0.11.24.1

SL: And she'd get paid for the babysitting.

0.11.24.2

CJ: And she'd get paid. I would go with her sometimes and we'd go over there and we'd clean houses, babysit, get the children to school, to the bus while the parent worked. Um, we also took in laundry. She was very good at ironing and washing and taught me really young to wash and sew and iron and embroider. And, um, we would take laundry into our house and wash it there on an old wringer washing machine and hang it out on the line. (Interviewer giggles) Then we'd iron what needed ironing and we'd return it to the family. Usually the families were in Old Southwest, Ferdinand,

Patterson. And we'd return them their laundry and they'd pay us and sometimes if we needed things really bad, if we were a little low on food, they would be really, always right there to help us out to give us a little extra loose to make it to the next pay period. This was our only living. My grandmother didn't work a job in an office or a factory. I think in her past, she worked in a canning factory years ago, but the only work she ever did that I knew of was to help other people, and then later on in life, as they grew older together, they were friends and they remained friends to the death. Uh, they came to her funeral and she went to their's. This was the people she worked for and the people that she worked for, they were always white but they treated us with respect and if we needed coal for heating for our house, we had a coal and wood furnace. If we needed coal for our house and was low on money, they would help us out with our bills, sometimes, things like that. We became great friends.

0.13.05.5

SL: That's wonderful.

0.13.05.6

CJ: Mm mm

0.13.05.7

SL: Uh, if you could talk to me about your school life. For instance, where did you attend school? Did you walk to school? Were you ever allowed to stay home from school? (Interviewer laughing)

0.13.17.6

CJ: I didn't want to. Um, the first school that I attended was Loudon Elementary School in Northwest Roanoke because that's where we could go to school. Back in those days, we couldn't go to school near my house, um, 'cause there was segregation and I went to Loudon Elementary School on Laodon Avenue in Northwest. It is now a park, Laoden Avenue Park. Um, I was not allowed to walk to school, it was too far away from my house. But, um, I think one time I sneaked with my friends and walked. Only once. (Laughing) And then, um, I went from 1st grade through 5th grade there and my 1st and 2nd grade teacher was -. My grandmother remarried again, uh, when we moved in that house, and it was my grandfather's cousin. I didn't learn this until I was graduating to 3rd grade, but I had found out then that, when she found out who I was related to and it was by marriage. She was wonderful, I just loved her. I loved all my teachers, I enjoyed being in school. I got good grades and I liked getting away from home 'cause I was on the other side of town which I hardly ever got to go to. We had one friend over there we used to visit on weekends sometimes, walking. We always walked, we didn't have a car. I never got like a ride to school in a car. We rode the bus everywhere we went or we walked. My grandmother didn't drive. My grandmother couldn't read or write. I taught her how to write her name and sign documents, that way, but she never learned to read or write. She grew up in farming country in the Farmville, Virginia area and she had to work in the fields. They took her out of school in the 2nd grade.

0.15.09.0

SL: So when she went to school, you did a lot of the reading

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CJ: I did a lot of the reading and writing for her. Uh, helped her write checks and she would sign them and I taught her how to write her signature. She didn't know how. I read letters. I wrote letters to my mother and read letters from my mother and from her relatives because she couldn't read at all. I read documents and mail she got in the mail at a very young age. I started doing this at 8 years of age at least and I caught the bus at the foot of the hill where I lived and my cat followed me down there everyday and met me when I came back. And, uh, I then went to at 6th grade, I graduated to Harrison, where the Harrison Museum is. I loved it there. My teachers were wonderful. Um, from there I went to Booker T.

0.16.02.4

SL: The high school?

0.16.02.6

CJ: Booker T. Junior, uh, Middle School.

0.16.02.7

SL: OK

0.16.02.9

CJ: Back then, we called it Junior High and I had to ride the bus to all these places. Then, at that school, I was able to ride the city bus. They allowed us to ride the city bus for 15 cents and, uh, 'cause back then - I had a great time, good school, great friends. Uh, I didn't have a lot of friends. I wasn't most popular. I was quiet they say. But I'm not now, I was quiet then (Interviewer laughing) and shy. My life was a lot not known to - it was a quiet life with an elderly parent, grandparent so I didn't mix in with the others who had like young parents who went to parties, things like that. So, I stayed home a lot. I went to church, home, school and I visited friends that I was told that I could visit that she knew their families only.

0.17.01.1

SL: How much schooling did you complete?

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CJ: I completed high school and I was number 39 in my class. I got to go, I went to, I completed at Lucy Addison High School, um four years after my husband. He graduated the year that I began going to high school so I never met him in school and then he went on to the military so I never met him until he got out of the military. Um, when, um, I was sick during the school year in high school. I enjoyed cosmetology. I wanted to get into hair. I liked playing with my dolls hair as I was growing up and I enjoyed playing doctor/nurse with my dolls and I enjoyed playing church and, um, was being a mom. So those were the things I got interested in. Um, I, um, was good at Biology. I got sent away to a Biology Regional. I didn't do the greatest because I didn't have a lot of Chemistry experience but I did great in the Biology Department. I made straight A's in Biology. I loved it. In Cosmetology, I learned a lot. I did hair for people at school and after on evenings and weekends I did hair from my home for friends and family.

0.18.11.9

SL: Did you get paid for that?

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CJ: I got paid 2 or 3 dollars because it was illegal for me to do it without a license. So, it was just family and friends and they would give me tips, 2 or 3 dollars, 5 dollars tops and I do hair and back then I was only allowed, we weren't allowed to cut, I just did like, we didn't have perms until, they just were beginning. Back in those days, I did, uh, hot combs. I did washes, hot combs, um, it wasn't a big thing to roll and set unless you had a certain kind of hair. My hair could be rolled and set but most of my friends couldn't be. And I did a lot of elderly. I grew up with elderly people so I had a lot of elderly friends more than I did young and I did a lot of elderly people, uh, ladies' hair who were friends of my grandmother. And, um, then I, at school, I also was, uh, interested, I became interested in art when I was 8 years-old. When I moved to the new neighborhood, I met a really good friend and we became best friends. We were in 3rd grade together. She was large and I was small and friends, our not good friends at school called her "fatty" and they called me "bony", "skinny". So we became friends 'cause no one, you know, we were kind to each other and we still remain best friends today. Um, she drew a little bit and I watched her and I thought it was wonderful. She came from a huge family and I stayed at her house a lot. Her big sisters were my big sisters. Her dad was my dad. And, um, her mom just made herself my mom and I enjoyed their house. I spent the night only probably once at their house. I wasn't allowed to spend the night at others' homes.

0.19.49.2

SL: How old were you during this time?

0.19.52.4

CJ: During this time, I was like pre-teen and teenage. We did each others hair and they sneaked and let

me wear their clothes. During so also at this time, you asked me about walking to school, I was never allowed to walk to school, it was too far away. My grandmother was a really over-protective grandmother. And, they would help me, I had other friends in the Hurt Park area that we would meet up with and occasionally they, people would come by the bus stop where I caught the bus and they would say, (whispered) "Let's walk". And, said, "No one's looking", and I'd say at least six times I walked to school. Once, I walked to school in the snow and slid down the hill behind Burrell Memorial Hospital, and we slid down the hill to the road and walked across. It was so much fun because I didn't, I was raised by elderly people. I wasn't allowed much out so when I could get to be with young friends, it was a lot a fun and at church. So that's why I always grew up in church and love going to school and not missing. I got perfect attendance most of the time because it was nice to get out around young people because I was raised by the elderly.

0.20.57.7

SL: Did either you or any of your family members ever attend college?

0.21.01.7

CJ: Uh, I was the only -, when I finished high school, uh, like I said I was 39th and they wanted to give me a scholarship but my grandmother was real skeptical of things and she was really eery (sic) of her money as she had very little most of the time. So what she did was she told them that she was sorry, she refused to sign any documents saying that I could go to college on a scholarship or anything like that because they told me that I qualified for a scholarship and I had several teachers try and help me get one. Um, during the time, uh, my 12th grade year, some of the conditions that I had lived in were not the greatest and it was discovered somewhat by accident when they called my grandmother in to talk to her about me going to college and when they, uh, when she, uh, explained to them her belief, fell on her beliefs, they were perturbed because they felt like, you know, this child deserves this and she's earned this and they felt like, and she told them, spoke her mind as to what she believed and didn't believe and then they realized how much I had been not allowed to participate in and the environment of my home and they said, um, that I, um, they felt bad and they tried their best to try to talk her into please signing and letting me go to college and she told them that she, they made her angry enough to just literally bless them out. So then they realized just how she felt about things and how her temperament could be and they felt bad for me but there was nothing they could do. I was graduating from high school, but they did have a program that I could go to call OIC and, uh, they told all of the students that a couple of days before graduation and when I graduated from high school, she had wanted me to earn money and bring money home to pay back her for raising me and I didn't want to work at just a convenience store or a burger joint, I wanted to do like they said I could do. They said I could do great things with my education that I, with my grades. So I went to OIC and, uh, she had to sign me in but she refused and someone helped me sign in. I went there and took some classes and they discussed some jobs I could go into, some classes. I ended up going to the Burrell Memorial Licensed Medical School of Nursing, free, and they paid all my, everything I needed down to the watch and the clothes and the books. And I went there and I was one of 13 graduates that made it through. 44 students signed up. I was one of the 13 who made it.

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SL: So you got your nursing degree...

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CJ: I got my nursing degree and from there I was able to earn money and not live low income and about the time I graduated, uh, I met my husband. He had just returned from the Vietnam tour of the Navy in Vietnam.

0.24.07.5

SL: Well, you've described a little bit of your home life with the way that your grandmother was and having to stay at home and the back door bathrooms and things like that.

0.24.21.1

CJ: We had a bathroom at that second house that had feet on it. We had a bathroom with feet, you know, a big tub.

0.24.28.1

SL: The tub with the claw feet?

CJ: With the little claw feet.

0.24.30.4

SL: Oh my goodness. What did you do usually when you were at home? Did you gather around the radio in the evenings? Did you have like, talk on the telephone, uh, read stories?

0.24.41.3

CJ: My grandmother was a great storyteller. She was a very religious woman. My grandmother believed in church and home and friends. She didn't believe in partying, or, well, she believed in, uh, having partying but only for the adults not for any teenagers or children. She had her own form of partying with her friends. I could party with her with her friends but not with mine that much. What we did, allowed to do mostly was we were allowed to sit around the radio. Eventually, we got a TV. I was allowed to watch TV when I was told I could. I had a curfew on the TV. I was allowed to talk on the telephone only when I was allowed to and that was very little. I wasn't allowed to have telephone friends, only on special occasions was I allowed on the phone. I was allowed to work in the kitchen whenever she would let me in and she didn't like you under her feet in the kitchen cooking. She was a great cook but she didn't want to teach me to cook. She said it bothered her to have you when she was cooking. But she did teach me to embroider and sew by hand. We were allowed to listen to Christian music only. She let Elvis in because he did some Christian music so we could listen to Elvis.

(Interviewer laughing) And so we got some Rock in there. But I wasn't allowed to listen to traditional Black Rhythm and Blues, Rock n Roll. I was not allowed to listen to any of that type of music except when I got out of the house and got around friends occasionally I could hear that. She didn't believe in it. She believed it was, um, would lead to sin. (Interviewer laughing) So, um, I was allowed to, uh, draw and I loved to draw and I got a sewing machine of my own when I was in nursing training. I earned it with my student stipend and I paid my little payments to Barr Brothers Jewelers and got me a little sewing machine and then I began to sew. Eventually, I made my wedding gown.

0.26.43.6

SL: You made your own wedding gown?

0.26.45.6

CJ: Mm mm

0.26.45.9

SL: Well, wonderful. You said that you liked to sit out on the porch in the evening. Would you talk to other people while you were out there, just sit and talk the people.

0.26.56.1

CJ: We talked to the children in the neighborhood. They were allowed to sit close by. Once I had a tea party with the little boy down the street from a foster home. We had a house down the street, down the hill from me, a mother who had grown children and a husband. They were raising 4 foster boys and one of them was very quiet and shy and, um, for some reason he came up and my grandmother said, they began to tease us and said that he was my boyfriend and so they went in to make tea and brought tea and cookies out. This is a one occasion, one time occasion, and they said that we were having tea and cookies together and everyone was shocked because I was shy and he was shy. So they thought that we should, I should have some fun and do that and we did it on the porch. We had also, my grandmother remarried again. She was widowed three times. The third marriage was a wonderful man. He was a Christian man. I loved him dearly. Her second husband that when we first moved to that house...

0.28.04.2

SL: This is the house on 13th Street?

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CJ: The house on 13th Street. He only lived for about 8 months. He was very ill. Shortly after we moved into that house, we found out that he was mentally ill and that, the truth is that he was very abusive and so, soon after he was confined to a mental institution and they were only married about 8 months before he died and so she married again in about 5 years later, between 4 and 5 years later, a very sweet man from Blacksburg, VA. He was just a wonderful male figure for me and he had a cousin that lived two doors down and we didn't know it at the time until they married, and I think he was visiting his cousin when they met and the cousin down the street had an orchestra like, he had a little band and during the summers, once a year during the summers, they would have like a little set-up in the neighborhood, right out in the middle of the street and on the sidewalks and they'd, of course, close off the street and entertain the whole neighborhood there and play gospel music. And it was just wonderful, I remember.

0.29.10.5

SL: Would you sit on the front porch and watch?

0.29.12.1

CJ: We sat on the porch. I could actually go down and sit on their porch and I could actually, people would bring chairs out and sit in chairs and listen.

0.29.19.4

SL: Very nice.

0.29.20.9

CJ: The whole neighborhood...

0.29.21.1

SL: Did you have any particular chores that you had to do around the house on a regular basis?

0.29.26.8

CJ: Very young, I had to do chores. When we had family and relatives and things in, I would have to clean up behind relatives that would come in and visit. So I learned very early to clean and plus I told you we cleaned houses together, so, I learned very early how to clean and then, um, I was always the person who did like the bathroom cleaning and the dusting, I was the dusting person and washed dishes a lot. I love washing dishes. She said if I grew up, she says, "You'll grow out of that and you won't want to do it after a while". (Both laughing) But, um, it took me a long time to not enjoy cleaning, cooking, 'cause it was something that she liked. I especially liked washing clothes and hanging them on the line. Something that a lot of kids didn't like. By me being raised by an elderly parent, I learned joys in doing things that a lot of young people didn't enjoy today or back then and things like laundry and, to the day, I still enjoy doing laundry. Occasionally, I hang laundry on the line. But, um, I grew up really, really young, enjoying watching, seeing a nice clean home because it gave me that feeling that I enjoy a job well done. I learned that from her. On my job, the jobs that I've done, I've gotten lots of compliments being a really good worker and getting my job done thoroughly.

0.30.46.1

SL: Let's see, um, do you have any particular family stories that were passed down from one generation to another? Did your grandmother have, you know, like special family recipes or a special family story that she would always tell?

0.31.02.1

CJ: We always did all the canning together. I wrote a story called, "A Country Morning In The City" and it's the story of how my, I added to it a little bit. Basically, it happened. This is back when we lived on Salem but some of this continued where they would bring meats from the country. You know, fresh meat, chilled meats and they would, we would, he would bring apples and fruits from the country, uh, I would call it the country that they lived in because she was raised in the Farmville/Prospect area. What her relatives would do, they would come up to visit us and she had relatives that lived here in town, just one and we'd go to her house, wonderful there, wonderful cook. And we'd go over there to dinner

sometimes and this was in Northwest on Mormon Road, a big beautiful house. Her cousin, her first cousin who never had any children and her husband and we'd go over there for special dinners and she'd teach me to cook over there because she loved having children around and teaching them things. We also had neighbors in the neighborhood who loved to cook and would show me things but she didn't and didn't have children. But, uh...

0.32.08.2

SL: Was there a special recipe or secret recipe?

0.32.09.7

CJ: There was pickling and canning fruits and vegetables. Um, but, um, my grandmother, she cooked so well everything....pound cakes, sweet potato pies. I love them now. I'm trying to think of some specialty things, um, cabbages, cooked special ways.

0.32.33.2

SL: Did they have a special family story that they would pass down such as -?

0.32.39.7

CJ: Well we had sad stories and good stories. My grandmother was always fearful of fire because her twin brother died in a fire. Her mother was a midwife and her mother was delivering one of her first cousins when her brother played in their fireplace back when she was growing up in down in the counties of Farmville area, Prospect, in and around there, Pampling City, down in that area. They lived out in the wilderness-like and they had, they used to cook ash cakes in the fireplace back in the those days. They had a lot of Native-American traits. Her father had a lot of Irish traditions that he kept up 'cause he was Irish and Black and then her mother was Native-American and Black and they, um, cooked a lot of ash cakes in the fireplace. But when her mother was out delivering, she watched her brother play in the fireplace pretending to cook ash cakes and a twig had caught on fire and his clothes caught on fire and she couldn't help him. They were twins together at 5 years of age. She had to protect herself. That was a sad story and happy stories were when they would ride horses. I rode a horse once and I wrote a poem about it down there in Farmville. They would do like, its sorta little like "Little House On The Prairie". They described it like that. The would have like little get-togethers and make apples, make different kinds of wines. My grandmother was really good at making wine. That's another thing we used to do is make wines and ciders. She taught us that really young, watching her do that. Like I said, every kind of preserves and my story that I wrote is about, is called, it says, "Everything Apples" in the story because the lady with her cousin from the country would bring up cousin Mandy, what we called her, her name was Amanda, Amanda Vaughn and she'd bring up apples in her big truck and we would make all kinds of apple things. I would wake up in the morning and smell apples and come out there and watch them do these things and we'd watch them make apples. My grandmother's specialty, come to think of it, was watermelon rind preserves. We'd have watermelons and save them from the summer and take the green part inside lining and the skin and make watermelon rind preserves. She taught me that well.

0.35.02.1

SL: That sounds really great. What did you usually just put it on? Like bread?

0.35.07.6

CJ: Yes, mostly on breads, toast, it was very good.

0.35.11.6

SL: It sounds very good.

0.35.12.5

CJ: It is. (interviewer laughing)

0.35.12.9

SL: You said that, uh, your husband served in the military, um, in the Vietnam War. Did he bring any stories back from that?

0.35.22.6

CJ: One kind of sad story, his ship took a direct hit and he has a Bronze Star on his license tag on his car because they took a direct hit. Only one soldier was injured. He was not injured, just frightened a lot. And witnessed the other soldier injured, um, they took a direct hit. They lost their ship. They later recovered it. It had a large burn hole in it. They were hit by a torpedo.

0.35.54.3

SL: Wow.

0.35.55.7

CJ: Mm mm.

0.35.56.5

SL: Was that his worst story?

0.35.57.8

CJ: I think that was one of his worst stories. His other stories were like good places he went. He travelled a lot of places, Italy, Spain, uh, Japan. My mother and my stepfamily, they lived in Okinawa, Japan for 3 years and they sent me lots of souvenirs from there. When I married, they couldn't be there because they were stationed in Okinawa and they couldn't come. My husband brought home slides. He had lots of slides of places that he, some Vietnamese pictures he brought some of them home too.

0.36.38.0

SL: So he took slides of...?

0.36.40.0

CJ: He took slides and photographs of all his trips.

0.36.42.4

SL: Wonderful.

0.36.42.9

CJ: And he had been in the Navy. He also is retired from the Naval, he's retired from the US Navy and he's also retired from the -. How he did that, he came back and joined the reserves. And in the reserves, they were sent on many missions and some of the missions they were sent on were in the reserves. He took pictures in Honduras and places like that that he had to go on missions.

0.37.05.6

SL: So he's been a world traveler. He's a well-traveled man there. (Chuckle) You said that there was a little shop, and like a little gas station.

0.37.15.0

CJ: Mm mm.

0.37.15.5

SL: Is there a particular store of business that you guys would go to all the time when you were growing up?

0.37.18.5

CJ: Yes. When I was growing up, we lived right down the street from the Garst Brothers Dairy and my neighbor, the dad worked there, well, we called him the dad. He was really her uncle. Her aunt and uncle raised her. She was my best friend on Salem Avenue. And her, her name was Billie. Her uncle worked at the Garst Brothers Dairy and the neighborhood where I live in now, I live on Garst Lane Drive. Its the family home of the Garst people who owned that dairy.

0.37.52.6

SL: So you lived in their neighborhood?

0.37.54.1

CJ: So I live in now, the home area. I live in their, the children's home. What happened in that neighborhood where I lived, there's a big house at the top of the hill where I live and its the old Garst home. Its a big white house with a summer house in back and a big yard and a pool. And, all the children came around and lived in that area. This is in Northwest and a man, a cousin of the family

who has since passed, told me the history when I moved in the neighborhood years, about some 30 some years ago. And he told me that the streets were named after the areas and also were named after the marriages of the children. One of the children married a Lancaster, so there's a Lancaster Avenue. One of the children married a man named Michael. I don't know if that was his first or last name, but the street behind me is called Michael Street because of it. They also had horses. They had cows. It was a dairy farm mostly so what they did was they had several kinds of cows and they named the streets after the cows where they were. They had an apple orchard and its called Appleton Avenue. It heads toward Peters Creek Road and its called Appleton Avenue. That's where the apple grove was and I live on Garst Land leading up to the family home but the street perpendicular to me is called Guernsey Lane and that's where they kept the Guernsey cows and the street that it goes into is called Angus Road, that's where they kept the Angus cows and like all the names have different family names or animal names or orchard names.

0.39.38.8

SL: Nice.

0.39.39.4

CJ: They told me that the man who sat me down when I moved in the neighborhood and told me the story of the neighborhood. And the Garst Brothers Dairy in Southwest on Salem Avenue is where we all, we'd gather together on hot summer days and meet Mister Paul, her uncle and he would come out and give us the leftovers of the popsicles and we'd eat Brown Bears, you know what I'm talkin' about. They're like popsicles. They have another name now I'm sure they call them now. Ice cream, vanilla popsicles covered in chocolate dipped.

0.40.11.6

SL: Oh Yeah.

0.40.12.1

CJ: And he would bring out the leftovers that they were just going to discard and throw away and they would give it to Mr. Paul for him to give to the neighborhood kids and we would all sit around the back door of the dairy and we'd eat the popsicles and I remember that.

0.40.26.5

SL: That's kinda the ones that didn't come out right or -?

0.40.28.8

CJ: The ones that were left over that we were getting, I guess, getting outdated.

0.40.32.4

SL: OK

0.40.33.8

CJ: They would have like an ice cream truck that would go around and deliver ice cream and milk. They had milk trucks, you know, and then they had -. We got our milk through to. They would deliver milk to our houses, the milk man and then later on there was Pet, and we'd have like, it was competition between the Garst's and Pet. And we lived right there on the Garst, on the street with the Garst Brothers Dairy and, um, Mr. Paul would bring us home some leftovers sometimes too.

0.41.01.3

SL: Very nice. You said there was a Pet, I've seen that in some of -.

0.41.06.1

CJ: The Pet dairy

0.41.06.2

SL: Yeah, I've seen the cans of Pet milk and sometimes in the convenient stores around here.

0.41.11.6

CJ: But there was a Pet dairy also.

0.41.13.1

SL: Did they buy out the Garst Brothers?

0.41.15.2

CJ: I think later on it was, and they changed it to Pet. Its something else now. Its a factory or corporation now. I watched a lot of those buildings go up that are there now. Greybar is one of the factories that -. Its like a wholesale, I think its wholesale machinery or something that they made there. I watched them build that. There was also a Lance. They had bakeries, dry cleaners, places like that at the time right across the street from my house. They've since long gone, but, like I said, there was a hotel. But see when I moved up to 13th Street, it was really a residential area. We had neighborhood groceries. I worked in one of the neighborhood groceries off Salem Avenue and 13th Street. The Wiggins Grocery is now a church. I worked in that store and then sometimes in the, I think it was called Monseur (??). They were their cousins. There were all these people, they were Lebanese and when they would have Lebanese, uh, parties and weddings, I took care of the children to the Wiggins family who were Lebanese and helped raise their 5 daughters and went to their weddings when they grew up. That's where I first saw my father was at the Wiggins Store. But, um, there's a store called Libby's. Its still real popular today on Salem Avenue, really famous.

0.42.42.5

SL: I've seen that.

0.42.42.7

CJ: They were cousins also. All these people were cousins and I would go to their family reunions and help with the food serving and I also learned a lot of Lebanese food and they helped teach me a little bit how to do it and taste it and learn about it. They taught me some of their family history and learned the music.

0.42.59.9

SL: Great. Can you tell me what your fondest childhood memory is? For example, did you have a favorite holiday event, favorite family vacation, a special gift that you received? I know its hard to pick a favorite. (Both laughing)

0.43.14.9

CJ: Well my favorite place was playing in my playhouse in the crawlspace underneath the back porch where we could play church and doctor and school. I always enjoyed that the most because the playhouse doctor's story I wrote is about my neighbors. I had neighbors who come as far as 12th Street and, uh, 12 1/2th/12th Street, sometimes 11th Street, people would come all the way up and we'd play church and we'd baptize and we'd have a like a Holy Spirit to come in like at church and we'd pray. But we'd also have, we played school and I enjoyed being the teacher and I work as a teacher now and I enjoyed playing doctor and nurse and I was always the surgeon and a doctor and I'm a nurse now. And, uh, we would gather up things, go into the house and gather up cotton balls and pour red Kool-Aid over 'em and we'd, I found forceps in my house. The lady who lived there, one of my grandfather's former wives, was very ill and had a visiting home doctor that would come in back in those days to your home and she died, I think of a heart attack. But she also had some other ailments and back then you could call the doctor and he would come to your home and some of his utensils got left there. And I had forceps and I had tweezers and I had some things of his. So, I took a big-old silver bowl and I poured Kool-Aid and cotton balls in there and we'd pretend like they were tonsils that we were removing from the children. (Interviewer laughs) We just made it like real-life. We'd make mud pies and act like we were cooking dinner and put grass in it and like vegetables. We played school. We go out and get paperwork and be the teacher and I had a family up the street from me, the Mayo (??) Family. The mom was a single mom. The children were raised by grandmother and mom and she had 10 children, two sets of twins and they were allowed to come to my house because we had the big fenced-in back yard and they had a big 2 story house but their backyard was open with no fence and she'd allow them to come down with special permission. I went up and asked special permission. And we would teach them, they were all younger than me, and we would teach them, have church with them and we would have, um, cook with them and we would have sometimes, my grandmother would give us real food and

it was like, that was my fond memories. That's why I wrote that story "The Playhouse Doctors".

0.45.50.4

SL: The playing under the house thing.

0.45.52.9

CJ: And we also went to the country like I told you in the summers, we would go to Statesville, North Carolina, to visit a friend she met, the Gaither family. And then we had another, we'd go visit her relatives also in Farmville. That's cousin Mandy's and they were sharecroppers and they had a big farm but they were paid to keep the farm but they didn't own the farm and they were allowed some of the food and vegetables and therefore we'd, they'd give us a share and bring to us in Roanoke from Farmville.

0.46.25.7

SL: And you'd make the preserves....

0.46.26.8

CJ: That's when we would ride, I rode a horse for the first time and I wrote a poem about it.

0.46.31.1

SL: How old were you when you rode the horse?

0.46.33.5

CJ: I believe the night I was just about engaged, I didn't ride the horse until I was about 19 and I had just finished nursing school and went to, took my husband down there to meet them and he was still asleep in the uncle's room and I had slept with an aunt and one of the cousins. And one of the cousins came by riding his horse and I was awake and my husband was still sleeping. He had done all the driving and my grandmother was there and her cousin, this was her cousin, my adoptive grandmother's cousin, and his name was Emanuel. He was 6'3" or 4", he was really tall. He had a tall horse and her name was Annie. He gave Annie an apple and he said I want you to ride _____ (??) around. And, well, he told, I didn't know this, I didn't hear him, and he came up behind me, he was a jokester and he teased me and he picked me up and put me on Annie and I didn't, no saddle, this was bareback and he didn't, he thought that Annie was gentle to him and obeyed him. But, for some reason, she didn't like me and she -

0.47.40.5

SL: Oh my goodness.

0.47.40.7

CJ: She took off with me and I held to the mane and she rode me around the farm.

0.47.45.6

SL: Oh my.

0.47.45.9

CJ: Between the bushes, the hedges and the trees with me screaming and in shock. (Interviewer laughs) I mean I didn't scream a lot. I was in shock mostly and I wrote a poem about it and, um, it was my first experience riding a horse. After that, I rode a pony once at a kiddie, uh, thing we did to raise money through my job, when I was in college. I did my internship at Grandin Road Reach, and they did like a pony show and that was the second time I had ever been on a horse. But this was a full-grown horse I was riding and he whistled and blew and made noises and finally she calmed down and brought me back to him and he slapped his thigh and she bend down and let me off and I was still in shock. (Interviewer laughs). But I never fell off. It was just this scary, giddy-scary experience and I wrote a poem about it. I like to write poetry.

0.48.45.6

SL: What kind of work have you done throughout your life? Has it mostly been nursing, you mentioned about teaching?

0.48.51.8

CJ: I've done many many jobs. Um, I started out at 9 years of age. I always loved children. I always

loved children. When I was 7 years old we would go to the country in North Carolina, Statesville. A lady there we met was the daughter of the people that my grandmother knew. She had married the Gaither family. She had 9 children. Every year, she had a new baby. We'd go down there. The first time I did it, it scared 'em. I was 7. They couldn't find the baby. I had the baby. Well, after that, every year I would go down there and they'd hand me the baby because I loved babies so much and I would -. They would say, "Where's Carolyn?". "Oh, she's somewhere with the baby. She's not out playing, she's with the baby". (Interviewer laughs) And I just love babies. And so then, um, I also used to enjoy, I enjoy interior decoration. I've always enjoyed that. I used to go to friend's homes in the neighborhood, just enjoy decorating their homes. I always enjoyed cleaning and not so much sewing right at first but when I really really young, I mean 8 years of age, I would love going in and reorganizing their furniture and moving it around and some light sewing, you know. But then, um, I also enjoyed going with them to ball games. Some of these people took me to ball games, something I had never done before.

0.50.28.0

SL: Where did you go to the ball games? In Salem?

0.50.30.5

CJ: There was a park, I think, you know back then I think it was Ma Field (??) and that's the same thing as, um, hmm, I can't think of it, right over here, what is it?

0.50.41.1

SL: Highland Park?

0.50.41.4

CJ: No, its the same thing where Victory Stadium is now.

0.50.45.3

SL: Oh, OK.

0.50.45.6

CJ: Back then, we used to go there and it was like the ball field and you could go and watch the ball games. People just played baseball.

0.50.52.1

SL: Did you just sit on the grass?

0.50.54.2

CJ: Um, we walked around a lot. I'm thinking we did sit on the grass. We'd take blankets. Mr. Paul used to take me, the same man that worked at the Pet Dairy.

0.51.04.1

SL: OK Um, so as far as jobs that you've had -.

0.51.08.4

CJ: Oh yeah, um, I'm sorry.

0.51.09.6

SL: That's OK.

0.51.10.6

CJ: I started out really young when I started doing that and then I moved up to working for the people that were Lebanese and I cleaned and did most of the cleaning and babysitting. I worked my way up. They didn't trust me with the babies right at first as I was just 9 years of age. But I did have that history where I had started at 7. I mostly at first did, like, cleaning and laundry and as the babies began to come, because it was a newlywed, the daughter was a newlywed couple and lived with the mom, helped her run the store. The mom was up in age and the daddy just passed. The granddaddy had just passed to the children. And, I began to babysit the children. The children took a liking to me real young and as she had 5 girls, I babysat those girls and went to school and when I was 17, it was just too much doing schoolwork and doing babysitting and cleaning so I did it in the summers some and then until I was 17. And, uh, I, like I said, I went to OIC and went to school a little bit there and anything I

was low in, math was not a high point for me so they helped bring my math up to the point I was able to get into nursing school and they, like I said, paid my way and put me through that. And I graduated -.

0.52.30.3

SL: What was the name of the school?

0.52.30.3

CJ: It was Lucy Addison Burrell Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. Mrs. Smith was my teacher and Mrs. Stuart. They helped me through a lot and some of my classmates also ended up there. I could've taken it in high school but I didn't know about it. Back then, you could go to high school in your senior year and take Nursing. I wasn't allowed to do anything like that thought as my grandmother wouldn't allow me to go too many places so it wouldn't have worked for me but I went through OIC and they paid for all my equipment and everything. I started at 17. I turned 18 a month after I started. My birthday was in September, I started late August. I finished the class, 18 months later around May or June and I took a little bit of some extra classes afterwards in the summer and started my first job working as a nurse, LPN, at Community Hospital. I worked there and then for about, I had just met my husband. I worked there for about 2 years. Uh, after I had worked there about 2 years and was married, the shifts were just really hard on me, working evening shifts and being young and married, working. I didn't get to see my husband a lot because of the shifts he worked and so then I eventually stopped doing the nursing. I wasn't feeling well. I just got to where I wasn't feeling well. I had been told as a teenager that I would never have any children. Um, I took a job working... I went back to OIC and took some classes to try to get into business, you know, like an office job and I took it only for a short time, uh, we needed some money and I wanted, we wanted to get a house of ours. I went to school for a short time at OIC and took some business classes and learned kinda quickly really. I took some shorthand, bookkeeping, typing. Before I could finish any of that, I was offered a job. So I took a job for an insurance company called Traveler's Medicare and I worked there for about 2 months and the company decided to move to Richmond. And then, during that time, I started feeling really ill and I, when the company moved, they said that if you can go, move to Richmond you can go. My husband didn't want me to and I didn't really want to move. So, a friend there was a nurse also and she got a job and she put in several offers for jobs and 3 people called her for jobs. She told one of them about me and they hired me and it was Blue Cross, Blue Shield Medicaid.

0.55.14.5

SL: Oh, OK.

0.55.14.9

CJ: Uh, shortly after I worked there, I got really ill and I began going to the doctor. They did several tests on me. They didn't know what was wrong with me. It took them 2 months to find out that I was a month pregnant. (Both laughing.)

0.55.29.5

SL: And they had said you weren't supposed to be able to have kids.

0.55.35.8

CJ: Right, so I worked there for about 7 or 8 months and then I left there. They gave someone else my job and so I went back, after having the baby, I went back to doing private duty nursing every now and then. So I went back to that. But, meanwhile, I did some nursing, I did private duty. As my child grew, I wanted to be home with her some. I stayed home some with her but then I found a job working as, I wanted to go back to work when she was about 3. I did some nursing home work a little bit part-time. And, it was midnights and that wasn't good. I didn't sleep well during the day so I eventually took a job at a place called Equifax Services working as a file clerk because that's what I had done at this insurance company. I was a file clerk and some hours a claims adjuster and so I went to Equifax Services that did, what they did is they did investigations for insurance companies to find out if the

records that you gave them were legitimate. They really investigated you because it was a house insurance, fire insurance, car insurance and some of the policies were million-dollar policies so they investigated the people. I worked there for 4 years and then I moved from there and went to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company for a short time. I was putting my daughter through private school. She was having some difficulty learning in public and I put her in private for 3 years and then I moved her back to public and she did well. But I went to a place called Allstate Finance and worked a while and it was just very tedious. All different kinds of jobs.

0.57.15.5

SL: So a medical office kind of thing?

0.57.15.5

CJ: Mm mm. I did a lot of medical office and I had always wanted to be a teacher too, and, um, so what happened was I ended up back doing a lot of private part-time nursing mostly because full-time nursing was kind of hard for me. But eventually, my daughter when she was 9 or 10, I ended up taking in some children to raise in the family. I took some children in that were, their mother was not fit to raise them and she was single. But I took them in. I ended up still getting a nursing job at the VA Medical Center. I went to work there and worked there for 5 and ½ years. While I was there, I became ill. It was just too much for me. I felt I had a heart condition I had had since young childhood and didn't realize it, a heart murmur and a mitral valve problem so I got out of nursing then, slowly, I needed the money. I got out of nursing slowly by going to Virginia Western to try to see if I could go to college. I did very well in college and eventually earned a scholarship and I was going to get into architecture. I always liked arts. But, after taking in these children I took in, some of them had physical difficulties, emotional difficulties and it was going to put me away from home a lot from them so I gave up on the architecture and ended getting into early-childhood education. I got my Associate's Degree in that with the scholarship and worked part-time at Friendship Manor Nursing Home on weekends.

0.58.47.9

SL: I think I know where that is. Its down Williamson, a little further than Herschberger?

0.58.52.4

CJ: Mm mm. I worked there weekends only and I only worked every other weekend so I could spend time with my family still. And then I finished my, when I finished and got my degree, I put in 18 different applications. Honeytree Early Learning Center in Salem was the first to call me and so I went there to work and I worked there, I went to work there....

0.59.13.0

SL: That's the one next to Lewis Gayle, right?

0.59.13.4

CJ: Its the one, no, next to the VA Medical Center.

0.59.16.9

SL: Oh, OK.

0.59.17.0

CJ: I worked there for 8 ½ years then I decided to venture back into some nursing to see how they're doing nursing. I went back to nursing but it was just too much. I did it for 4 months at the Berkshire in Vinton. And they asked my daughter to please talk me into not leaving. I got attached to the elderly. I've always been attached to the elderly and the very young. And I think its because as a young child, I was raised by adoptive parents, grandparent. And I always felt for children, I've always had a feel for children who were adopted, foster homes, just not wanted and when I was a young child, my desire was, I didn't understand the Catholic faith and I thought to be a nun, all you had to do was to be a nun and I said I want to be a nun and then you could take in children, homeless children so I said I want to be a nun when I grow up. (Interviewer laughing) I found out that wasn't true so then I, in between being in nursing, I always tried to help children who were sick. I enjoyed working with sick children.

I did eventually, like I said, take in children to raise. I helped a lot of people raise their children throughout my life. If they were having problems, I would take their child in for 3 or 4 days and give them back to 'em. I've done that a lot.

1.00.32.0

SL: So you've been essentially a foster mother in certain respects.

1.00.36.1

CJ: Mm mm. And I've taken in children in my husband's family and raised them and they are 3 of my children that I listed.

1.00.42.7

SL: Frank, Latonya and Douglas?

1.00.44.2

CJ: Mm mm. And I raised them from 1 ½, 2 ½ and 4½.

1.00.51.3

SL: So you were pretty much their mother during a lot of the time.

1.00.54.9

CJ: They call me mom. I've been their mom since I've had 'em. Um, I work now. When I left the Berkshire, my daughter was taking exercise classes. She's also in childcare and she worked in childcare right out of high school. She took it in high school and my daughter is a middle school special education teacher's aide, teaching assistant. She is very good with children also. When I took in those children to raise, she was very good at helping me. She bonded with them right away. They're real close. She's my only child. I had many miscarriages. I had always wanted a big family. I had many miscarriages. I lost twins and several single births.

1.01.42.7

SL: But you did have your one daughter?

1.01.44.4

CJ: I had my one daughter. She's the one I had when I worked at the insurance company.

1.01.48.3

SL: Oh, OK. I have a few other questions about the Roanoke area. Did you ever use the public library.

1.01.56.2

CJ: Oh Gosh, yes. (Interviewer laughing) Growing up with parents who couldn't read or write, I often had to get help. I did have neighbors who helped me a lot in the 13th Street area. A lady, Miss Eva Perry (??) who was recently buried. I went to her funeral. She helped me a great deal, not having learned parents. She helped me with my homework a lot. She had a typewriter which we didn't have. I also forgot to tell you I work at First Baptist Church Child Development Center now. I've been there 11 years. I left Honeytree in the Berkshire and there. I just couldn't get away from the kids. And I work with 1 and 2 year-olds. Working with 1 year-olds turning 2, I love it. I'm going to try to retire next year but I'll probably volunteer, go back and volunteer.

1.02.42.2

SL: Have you ever thought of volunteering with the library?

1.02.44.3

CJ: I love it. I thought about it. I've met someone here when I come here. I've brought many teenage, my teenage children and stepchildren. I've brought them here and helped them with their homework. I am a tutor to everybody's child. (Laughing) I should work as a tutor. I have tutored my children, my adoptive children, my children, other people's children. I've tutored my -. When I was in college, I worked as a tutor as a matter of fact. I earned money that way to see me through college and with raising my family. I made \$80 a month as a -. I worked in the work center, I think its called the work center, oh, the learning center at, uh, when I went to community college.

1.03.31.8

SL: OK

1.03.31.9

CJ: I worked there, I called it my work stay (??) and I worked under a professor. Her name was Susan Trent and she told me, she says, uh, you should've been an English teacher. (Interviewer laughing) Because I worked with students mostly with their English because I was really good at writing, reading and just things to do with English, grammar.

1.03.56.2

SL: What particular library branches have you used the most would you say?

1.04.01.6

CJ: Um, I've come here a lot.

1.04.04.3

SL: To the main library?

1.04.04.9

CJ: To the main library 'cause a lot of times when the other libraries... I've gone to the Williamson Road a lot. I live in Northwest Roanoke. I've gone to the Landsdale occasionally. I've gotten the school that I work at, the First Baptist Church, I've gotten books there because I'm a teacher there and for my group times and when I do lesson plans, I often go to the library and get books concerning my lesson plans. My favorite lesson plan is around Thanksgiving. I do "The Relatives Came". And I always come to get, um, we have it now at the church library. I also use our church library a lot and we have it now there. Its called "The Relatives Came". Its by, I think her name is Carolyn Bryant and she's from West Virginia.

1.04.49.5

SL: Hmm

1.04.49.5

CJ: Its a story about a family who goes from Virginia to West Virginia to visit families, sleep, and its like out in the country and they sleep together in this small house on the floor, on the chairs and they love each other and they hug each other, they kiss each other and then they come home to the grapes in Virginia when they're ripe and they make grapes, they make grape everything. Like I talked about the apples in my family. And I always get, when it wasn't available at my job, I would always come to the library here, because we're right near my job. And I'd come here and get "The Relatives Came" and, but lots of times I come and get other books and take them back and I don't allow the children to touch them because they're 1 and 2 but I allow them to look at the big pictures as I tell the stories during group time during my lesson, whatever theory I'm on at the time.

1.05.37.6

SL: Very nice. Would you describe some culture events that have happened in Roanoke over time? I know you said there was like the little jazz band in the street.

1.05.45.8

CJ: Right, I remember that.

1.05.45.8

SL: You also had mentioned that you went to the ball games and things like this. Were there any other ones you would like to mention?

1.05.54.5

CJ: My grandmother always took us to the circus.

1.05.56.4

SL: The circus?!

1.05.56.4

CJ: And the circus we had, well she called it the fairgrounds.

1.06.01.4

SL: OK

1.06.01.4

CJ: And back then, it wasn't Victory Stadium or, it was really near the Civic Center. There was a place there, I don't know if it was the Kazim Temple then, 'cause I remember seeing the Kazim clowns but where we went was near Hotel Roanoke. Its right there on the spot near the Civic Center where the fountain, across from Hotel Roanoke, where the fountain flows.

1.06.28.4

SL: I think I know where you're talking about.

1.06.30.4

CJ: You know, it springs up and looks like a geyser.

1.06.32.9

SL: Yeah, I haven't been there much.

1.06.35.8

CJ: In the old days, there was a brick structure there and my grandmother called it the fairgrounds because they would have like an inside circus and an outside fair and it was like they do at the Civic Center in Salem in the summers. You know, they have like a, the animals, the cows and the horses.

1.06.54.5

SL: Were there lions and tigers?

1.06.56.1

CJ: Yeah, and they would do it there and she called it the circus 'cause she just called the whole thing the circus at the fairgrounds and we would go on the back of Mr. Paul's truck, 'cause he had a truck. And we'd go there at night and they'd have the rides, the Ferris wheel, the old-fashioned rides and we'd ride and they'd have the ponies and we'd go there at night and that was always the ritual that we would do that.

1.07.21.1

SL: Would it be like every summer?

1.07.22.7

CJ: Uh, yeah. They'd be every summer and it'd always be so hot. (Interviewer laughing) And we'd do it during the summer.

1.07.29.1

SL: Can you think of any strong community leaders that you had contact with and what roll did they play in your life?

1.07.37.3

CJ: My pastor, he was like my dad. He told me, uh, I was always grieving that I didn't get to live with my mom or dad, but especially my dad. I got to know my mom. I didn't get to know my dad at all and I went through a horrible time. My dad passed away without me knowing him and I thought he had passed away when I was a newborn. But, I found out that this was the theory and it was not true and it was to protect me, supposedly. But I found out that he had died right after he died and I couldn't be with him or anything. They took him away to bury him so I couldn't be with him. So, um, my father, I wasn't, I didn't feel comfortable talking a lot of times at home because I wasn't allowed to discuss these things so I talked to my pastor at Morningside Baptist Church where I, like I said, joined the church and they were just like my family. My pastor and his wife and some of the other church members there that I was close to and he said, "God is your father". He said, "Whenever you feel alone, God is your father. Don't feel like you don't have a father." And my mother had remarried, my stepfather, but they lived in Japan and they lived in Nevada and they lived in Colorado and far away places and I was never there. So, this pastor became like a father to me. Also, I used to babysit for Noel C. Taylor (??) who lived in the neighborhood of the mayor, who lived in the neighborhood of my church back in those days. The Henderson family was a Sunday School teacher there, she and her husband. I babysat for them. They were really mentors for me. Other mentors I had that I thought highly of were my teachers. They were just so wonderful to me, my teachers. They made me want to be a teacher.

(Interviewer giggles softly) And I had nurse friends that I knew across the street from my house that I looked up to them. They were nurses.

1.09.46.1

SL: Very nice. So I take it, the next question I have here was who were your role models but obviously they were your role models.

1.09.55.3

CJ: Yes, they were. Some of the families, also, when I was growing up, I was allowed to watch certain TV. Its old-fashioned I know and in my day, this is what was on TV and I think in a lot of ways it saved me, that and TV, that and church. I was allowed to watch TV and I was allowed to watch things like Father Knows Best, Lassie, Leave It To Beaver-type shows. I was allowed to watch National Velvet. Shows where there was always a mother, always a father, were church-going. You know what I mean? It was always a lot of values, lot of morals and even though in my lifetime growing up in my household, I saw a lot of things that were not very moral, not very good morals. I decided very young in age, some people might not agree with me, but, I looked up to Father Knows Best and I looked up to Lassie's dad, Lassie's, the little boy's dad. I looked up to the mom. I had neighbors in my neighborhood that were elderly retired school teachers and the husbands, some of them didn't have children, railroad retirement workers and their wives. They were my role models and I watched them and, like I said, we had some single family people in my neighborhood but there were very few. Most of the neighbors I lived around were retired married couples, widowed ladies who had been married and raised their families, just some really, those were my good role models. And at church, I had mostly married families. Occasionally, I ran into people who were not married and had children but it was very seldom. I had so many more that weren't, you know, I just had so many, most of the families were not single home families and my role models were also the people up the street that I told you about that, the girl that drew and she just kinda grew away from drawing and I was just so fascinated with her drawing that I began to copy everything she did. I liked her so much. I wanted to write like her, do everything she did. We were the exact same age and her older sisters, I looked up to them, they were good role models. They made A's and B's in school. Back then, it was E's and B's. (Interviewer laughing) I don't think it was B's. It was like E's and G's back in those days. E's and G's were A's and B's back in those days. And I wanted to be like them.

1.12.38.3

SL: I'm gonna pause this for a short bathroom break.

1.12.42.4

CJ: OK.

1.12.43.7