

Interviewee: Lucky Lular Ree
Interviewer: Ashley Maynor
Transcriber: Andrew Sterling

Today is June the 26th and my name is Ashley Maynor and I'm with Roanoke Public Libraries and I'm interviewing Mrs. Lular Ree Clark Lucky at her home on Norfolk Avenue in the Hurt Park neighborhood. We're going to talk today about her experiences living in this area and working with children.

AM: Thank you so much for letting me interview you today. So you were telling me just a minute ago that you weren't actually born here.

0.00.35.0

LL: I was born in Singleville, South Carolina.

AM: And how long did you live in South Carolina?

LL: They brought me to Roanoke when I was 3 years old.

AM: Do you mind telling me when your birthday was?

LL: September 23, 1928.

AM: And what brought your parents here to Roanoke when you were 3?

LL: My grandmother, my grandparents, my granddaddy worked for Norfolk and Western and, um, they – My daddy's side of the family was from South Carolina. And my grandmother and them were from - my momma's side of the family was from North Carolina. And, um, I don't know what brought 'em here. All I know is that the Clark side comes and then the Moore side comes. That's the way they talk about it and they all moved – My grandmother is the one I'm named after. I got a picture of her somewhere. Its in my bedroom. They lived at 12 ½ Street and the one that raised me, he lived right here at 100 10th Street Southwest, right on this corner. And he worked for Norfolk and Western and all I know is my aunt told me last year, this is sad, that they came down to the reservation and brought me here when I was 3 years old and my mother got burnt up in the same house when I was about, going on 5.

0.02.34.3

AM: Which house was that?

LL: 100 10th Street Southwest.

AM: Now were you telling me that your grandfather was an Indian?

0.02.53.0

LL: Uh huh, John, his name was John Clark. That's my granddaddy. But my grandpa Moore, his name was Patrick Henry Moore and he's the one that raised me. Granddaddy stayed in South Carolina but grandma Clark moved to Roanoke 'cause she had a brother here and he moved her here from South Carolina.

AM: So because your mom died, you were raised mostly by your granddad?

0.03.28.9

LL: Uh huh. Yeah, my granddaddy and grandmama raised me and my daddy got killed in a car wreck when I was about 15 years old, 15 or 16.

0.03.46.0

AM: Hmm. Did you have any cousins or anything - ?

LL: Oh yeah. My granddaddy raised 6 grandchildren and we were all cousins and the ones that he raised, our parents had died all but one and my Aunt Minny and she was blind.

0.04.18.8

AM: Hmm. Do you have fond memories of growing up?

0.04.22.3

LL: Yeah, my grandmother, there used to be some, we called 'em dunkets when we was kids but

they're, what'cha call those people, they back up there on Bent Mountain. They came from Floyd County. They used to come and my grandmother made lye soap in the backyard and I would stand and watch her make lye soap and they would come and buy it and she would give it away to people. And, um, then she taught me to quilt. You know how you quilt? She made some quilt frames out of 4 pieces of wood and took the poker and got it hot and made holes in it and took rag strings and tied around and she would quilt quilts and that's how she taught me how to quilt quilts. I would walk around (laughing) the frame with her, help her tie it. I was a little bitty something. But she would show me how to stitch and base and put the frame, quilt the quilt in there, the inner lining on the frame so when she quilted, you'd put the needle through it, go all the way down and you'd put it together. Then, she got me – I was raised in this church right here.

0.05.57.6

AM: Jerusalem Baptist Church?

LL: Uh huh. 'Cause as a kid, Ms. Golden, you've probably, its somewhere in history, her name will come up, her name was Estelle Golden. She would take us and, take me and just have me in everything in Jerusalem, her and Miss Wheaton, Madge Wheaton, Audrey Wheaton's mother-in-law. And I was in school with Audrey but Audrey never lived in Northwest. They didn't bother us. We had to go to, we walked from here to Harrison's School. We didn't have no buses. (laugh) And then we had to walk from here to Addison. When we got to Addison we had to walk.

0.06.43.5

AM: That's a long walk from here.

0.06.46.0

LL: Uh huh and, but um, Jerusalem, I was raised in Jerusalem but I joined Jerusalem under Reverend Hunter, that's Jeanette McCadney's (??) daddy and I started singing when I was about 11 or 12 and I went around with this preacher singing all over Roanoke and places and churches. It was myself and a boy named Edward Roberson. He played the piano and he had a - this man's name was Dr. Rollins. I knew that name had come up somewhere. Some way or another he followed Reverend Pinkutt? (??) ? You heard of Pinkutt? (??)

0.07.40.7

AM: I have.

0.07.42.0

LL: Dr. Pinkutt, We called him, grandmother and them talked about him. He had the first bank right up here on Salem Avenue and Dr. Pinkutt, he followed Dr. Pinkutt. (Laughs) And Dr. Rollins – I've always been around children all my life but I don't know – but my grandmother some kinda way got me tied with Doc Rollins and his wife and I started singing, just singing with 'em and following 'em. So what he did, Doc Rollins and his wife kinda helped keep me going, helped me with clothes, helped my grandmother and them. So that kinda kept me from getting, I guess from getting too far away.

0.08.39.6

AM: Do you remember what songs you would sing or what some of your favorite songs were?

0.08.44.4

LL: It was a song called, "Over There". You don't hear it now 'cause when Doc Rollins taught it to me when he come to _____ (??) It wasn't no music with it. It's "Over there, there's a land of pure delight, over there, over there, where faith at last in sight, over there, over there. Wasn't no sorrows enter in, Wasn't no temptation and no sin, There'll be no one to put us out, over there." That's the song. That's the chorus of it. I sung the verses of it. Sometimes, I look like I sit down, I can get the verses and sometimes I can't.

0.09.31.4

AM: Do you remember the tune of it?

0.09.33.4

LL: Mm mm (Singing) There's a land of pure delight, over there, over there, Where faith at last in

sight, over there, over there. Where no sorrows enter in, No temptation and no sin. There'll be no one to put us out over there. (Speaking again) That's it. And I still sing but I belong to the choir up here at Jerusalem and I had a choir with the Valley Baptist Association Youth Choir. I had that. The ministers didn't like the idea that I let any child sing. Hello. They had to be of Baptist faith and so I just give it up 'cause if I couldn't take all kids, I don't care where they come from. I would take 'em and they didn't like it. That's selfish of Roanoke. The parents thought there was money in it – What it was set up for was to raise – if they did sing and they got an offering of anything, it was supposed to go to a scholarship but the parents couldn't see that far. But I could see that far. And during that time, I worked with Reverend Suggs' son. He went to football. His daddy preached in Schaeffer Memorial in Christiansburg. But he lives in Roanoke. Lee Suggs, he went to, he's in professional football. Curtis Blair, I had a little part in his life. He's in North Carolina. He went to basketball. John Nech (??), he was raised up here in Hurt Park Projects and I had a little bit in his life. I could name a whole lot of them but then the ones that just stand out in my mind 'cause I think about 'em quite often. But I don't know - Southwest is not the same as it used to be.

0.12.17.6

AM: In what ways do you think it's changed the most?

0.12.19.6

LL: It's changed a lot. It has changed a lot. The church people don't reach out like they used to. But I work in the church, I work out with the community and all. I work with all the children. Even 'til now, they come in. (Phone rings) “Mrs. Lucky, I'm hungry”, I feed 'em. If there's anything here to feed 'em, I feed 'em. (Phone conversation) She just want to talk about her problems that's all.

0.13.17.4

AM: Do a lot of people come to you for advice?

0.13.21.7

LL: Uh huh. Even now.

0.13.24.4

AM: Are you kinda, um, maybe one of the elders, you'd say, of the community people look to?

0.13.31.8

LL: Yeah, right now, yeah. 'Cause even the girls that have babies, some of them come in. They have bi-polar, lupus (sigh), other mental health problems. I sit and listen to 'em and the children, I do what I can for 'em 'cause back there that's Christian education stuff. Sometimes they come in, they want a book and they sit and keep 'em from idle hands. I give 'em something to do, work a puzzle or something. They're happy. They come in, “Mrs. Lucky, can I look at TV”, I say, “Yeah”. “I want to look at cartoons”. They know I like cartoons. So they sit down and we sit here and look at cartoons.

0.14.28.9

AM: Where do you think all that love comes from that you're giving to your community?

0.14.35.9

LL: Comes from God, 'cause, I just can't live by myself. I have to share something. I have to do something if it ain't nothing but a – I get upset if somebody even mistreat a dog and it just – I don't like for nobody to mistreat nobody. But I have to keep my mouth shut about a lot of things so I just keep it shut. But now I've been involved in the neighborhood and I'm still involved in – tomorrow, I go to Richmond tomorrow, to a meeting, a legal client – There are clients that don't understand what legal services are all about or understand any legal, any kind of legal (Footsteps as Mrs. Lucky moves across the room) (From the background..) Do you see this? This is whole bunch of stuff right here, missionary stuff, right here in this cabinet.

0.15.56.6

AM: Mm mm

LL: (From across the room) I've got everything scattered. I got church stuff in here. This is from the Valley Baptist and the State Baptist Association. I sit on the committee/board for that.

0.16.17.7

(Mrs. Lucky's voice is too far away)...

0.22.34.0

LL: What'd I do with them cards. I don't know. This right here, this is the Baptist Children's – What else you need?

0.22.56.6

AM: Well let me get you to tell me a little bit about your schooling and your early career and your own family 'cause I want to make sure that you tell me about all of that. I know you went to Addison -

0.23.14.1

LL: Addison High School. I've been to Virginia Tech. I took Early Childhood Education at Virginia Tech and Madison College. They sent me to Mississippi State and I was down there with some guys that belonged to - what was that saying with Rap Brown (??) in? Who was that? Black Panthers. Yeah. I was down there in college with a couple of 'em and I was scared to death.

0.23.51.3

AM: Was that as a student?

0.23.51.8

LL: As a student and they sent me down there for a 6 week course in Jackson, Mississippi. They had a little house in the middle of the field and I went in there and these women had their hair tied on and they was making pecan candy. I stood there and watched 'em. And the pecan trees was out there 'cause where the dormitory was all the pecan trees was right out from it and they had this little house there. That's the only interesting thing about it. 'Cause they told us, "Don't go out at night because of the Ku Klux Klan".

0.24.48.5

AM: So around what time was this? What years were you in college?

0.24.53.5

LL: Oh, let's see. My son is 39 years old. (Knock at the door) (Yells) "Come on". Herman's 39. He wasn't born then. It was in the '60s. That was in the '60s. (A little louder) (Door closes) My husband died in '63. That was about sixty, oh my God -

0.25.31.2

AM: So when were you married? Were you married while you were quite young then? Before college?

0.25.37.6

LL: Yeah. I didn't go to college until after my husband died.

0.25.43.7

AM: So tell me what happened. Put it in order for me. So you graduated from Addison and then when did you get married?

0.25.51.6

LL: I got married in 1963. 'Cause the first marriage I got married, it didn't, it wasn't no marriage. I left Roanoke and went to Columbus, Ohio, and I come back and that's when I went back to college and I got married – Herman died in '63 – So, huh! That was in the '50s. I went back to college in the '60s. I got married in '58 or '59. Well, I got a marriage license somewhere. I think it was 50 – Wait a minute, I just saw it. I think -

0.26.47.3

AM: I think that was in your blue, I saw a marriage license in here.

0.26.49.5

LL: In here?

0.26.49.7

AM: Mm mm,

LL: Yeah, its in here also. Yep, 'cause this is the government papers in here. Yeah, here it is. Lord

have mercy – 56 (She exclaimed) (Interviewer laughing)

0.27.18.0

AM: Earlier than you thought.

0.27.18.9

LL: Wow! Mm mm mm. In '56 and he died in '63. OK.

0.27.36.3

AM: And his name was Herman?

0.27.37.2

LL: Uh huh

0.27.40.0

AM: What was his last name?

0.27.41.2

LL: Lucky. Herman Richard Lucky.

0.27.43.9

AM: Did you have any children?

0.27.46.1

LL: Um, I had my child, I couldn't birth no children. I could birth 'em but they had to take 'em from me but the son that I got, I adopted him.

0.28.02.8

AM: What's your son's name?

0.28.06.6

LL: Herman Richard Lucky. I named him after -

0.28.09.6

AM: He's the genius?

0.28.10.0

LL: Uh huh.

0.28.12.6

AM: And when did you adopt your son?

0.28.14.6

LL: OK, I just saw the papers a few minutes ago. Um, here it is, this is it. (Papers rustling) An aunt of mine kept up with everything. Well, you know I'm blessed because see some kids don't have nobody to keep up with nothing. Let's see – when was that boy born? - This is dated – Where are my glasses? - I saw 'em somewhere.

0.29.01.2

AM: You had some in your bedroom. Let me get 'em for you.

0.29.02.5

(Footsteps) (Papers shuffling)

0.29.19.2

LL: He was born in '69. I think he was born in '69 'cause when I got him, he wasn't no more than about - he wasn't even a month old. 'Cause the doctor called me and told, "Come get this baby". I say, "Oh no". He said, "Mrs. Lucky, you come and get this boy". I said, "No, Dr. Glovesgo (??) Uh uh, I ain't got time." He said, "You come get this boy". And I went over to Community Hospital and saw that little devil and picked him up and he was just grinnin'. (Interviewer laughing) Let's see, what date is on this thing here? This has got 1970. He was born in 1969. That's when he was born. Yep! That's exactly when he was born. Mm mm. He was 6 months old, he was month old, uh huh. See right here. (papers shuffling) Well I'll be doggone. He was a month old. That was in '69. It had to be in '69.

0.31.02.3

AM: So you were single by the time you adopted your son.

0.31.05.9

LL: Uh huh. 'Cause my husband had died.

0.31.08.7

AM: Your husband had died in '63. So you had gone to college and you had started your career and you were a single mom then.

0.31.15.6

LL: Yeah. That is the truth.

0.31.16.1

AM: So tell me about what made you want to go back to college and what you did after college.

0.31.27.2

LL: Now that's a strange thing because God just looked like – avenues just started opening for me and I started working with the city when they was coming through Henry Street and there was a – used to be a Black Business League in Roanoke and I was the youngest thing there with them old men. That was with Mr. Mac Barlow (??) He used to have the Dumas Hotel, him and a whole bunch of older men and they had me doing their legwork. 'Cause you younger than we are, sister, so you, they called me sister, you have to do it, that's how I got involved with the city. Dr. Claytor (??), old Dr. Claytor. Yeah. That's how.

0.32.42.2

AM: And was that, were you working with the city before you went back to school or afterwards?

0.32.45.5

LL: Afterwards. 'Cause after all of this, I don't know, I got hired under a program for the Social Service Department.

0.32.58.0

AM: Did you move into this house with your husband?

0.33.01.4

LL: No. I've been living here 20 some years.

0.33.04.9

AM: Where did you live with your husband when you got married?

0.33.07.4

LL: Up here in Southwest. Right up here on Salem Avenue. And he worked for the Roanoke City Sanitation Department.

0.33.26.7

AM: So your final degree, was that in Early Childhood Education?

0.33.29.7

LL: Mm mm

0.33.30.1

AM: And then you got working with the city and then -

0.33.33.8

LL: And then I went back to school for Sociology 101 and 102. Then I started – Oh my Lord.

0.33.45.4

AM: And when did you start the day care, was that after that, after you went back to school?

0.33.47.6

LL: No, I started day care before I went back to school.

0.33.56.2

AM: Do you remember what year or about what year you started doing that?

0.34.01.2

LL: (Sigh) Girl, you racking my brain. (Interviewer laughing) Let's see, he was born in '69. This was in the '60s. So it had to have been about '68, '67 to '68.

0.34.19.5

AM: And what prompted you -

0.34.25.3

LL: 'Cause I was with day care when he was born. Yeah, it was in '67/'68.

0.34.29.4

AM: You were working here in Roanoke for a day care?

0.34.33.1

LL: Uh huh. I started day care over there on Grayson Avenue. That's when I started that day care.

0.34.41.3

AM: And why did you start that day care?

0.34.43.2

LL: Because I had been fooling around with TAP and they had – I was still living in Southwest and the house where they had had these people in is still up there 'cause Miss Nunan (??) and them bought this house because it used to be a nursing home. It used to be Carter's Nursing Home up there. So Miss Nunan (??) and them bought the house after - TAP had a club called Mother's Club and this Mothers Club, they would keep the children so these young girls could go to school or go back to school, get their GED and get what they had to get. And, if you tell me how I ended up over there with those little crying babies, I don't know. But I used to go over there every day – just go over there and one day I went over there and the milk was sour and it was just pitiful. And I went to TAP and was talking to them and they didn't seem like they cared so I don't know what happened. I got in touch with the Episcopalians and they got that church and that's how the day care started.

0.36.11.7

AM: The church on Grayson Avenue? They donated that to you?

0.36.13.8

LL: Yeah.

0.36.14.2

AM: And did you say that you wrote a grant?

0.36.15.5

LL: I wrote grants. I went to TAP and asked for help to write grants and they helped me to write grants. That's how that day care center got started.

0.36.31.2

AM: And you said it was funded by the United Way?

0.36.32.7

LL: Yeah, United Way was one of the funding sources and the strangest thing, the building and everything was put up over there and that's a Continental Home and at that time, they didn't want no Continental Home in Roanoke. But over there on Graysons, they said that they would accept it over there if it would look like a home so that's how Continental Homes put that place over there. (Softly) That's a long time ago.

0.37.10.8

AM: And how long were you at the day care? Did you run that until you went back to school?

0.37.15.2

LL: I run that until I set up a board of directors and, see, I didn't want to own it. I wanted the parents to own it. It seemed like it was a debate between the parents owning and me owning it. I didn't want to own it. I wanted it to be for the parents 'cause it was named King-Kennedy Parents Association. I didn't want it to – That's the way I wanted it but Ms. Gott, hello, Ms. Gott couldn't see it that way. With all the training I had most of the stuff, like, God gave me the ability to do it, to put me in the place where I could take what training I had of what was in my brain. I could take it and develop it as a learning tool. And I would, I made a whole lot of things that I was training like numbers and stuff like 'at. 'Cause I've always been artistic 'bout doing stuff. What happened, somebody, I'll never forget it, they planted this woman up there and she kept messing in my papers and stuff and I told her if she put her hand back in there again, I was gonna knock her hands off and she went and told whoever put her

in there. They pissed me off and when they pissed me off, I told 'em what I had to tell 'em. So they right away just told me that I no longer was needed. Hello? So I left. And I told 'em, I said, "What God put together, you cannot tear down". And its still over there, the building's still there. 'Cause when they came to me and wanted to know what they should do. I said since TAP helped me get it up, let 'em take it. So that's how TAP got it. That's how TAP got it. I guess I wasn't the right person, you know, but you see if you come by stuff in a hard way, and you try to do stuff the way you know how to do it. People just don't – I don't know. People just, these people just don't – I don't know. I have doubts about people in Roanoke 'cause see they have not did me no great favors, hello? What they did, even people in church, they try to knock you, anything you try to do to help somebody, it looks like they don't want to help nobody. I'm serious. And anytime you try to do something, 'cause like some of them would say, "I wouldn't do this, I wouldn't do this." I said, "Somebody got to help them kids". And just like when the school problems, they come to me and I got news for ya, I get on the telephone and call the school. Yes I do. And see I took training in Richmond. I sat on a committee in Charlottesville and this committee, I had workshops here in Roanoke and do you know, they didn't even have to pay nothing for it. (Footsteps) And do you know, see, that's the committee. And had those books to give to the parents. You can count on one hand how many parents participated. But when something goes wrong, they come to me and I go get one of my books, like 'at. Get my book and go to work with it 'cause everything's in that book. Let me see if I've got another one here. If I do, I'll give it to you 'cause I got a blue one here somewhere. (Moves away from recorder) I take them books and take it to school with me and put it up there and the principals tell me, "Where did you get that book from?". And I tell 'em, I want one. And so they told me, "If they want one, you tell to send get one. Don't you give 'em your book. I got more than one here honey but I, got more than one here but I'm trying to think where that one is – Well, you can take that one if you want it 'cause I got another here somewhere. I may got 2 or 3 of here somewhere. You can take that one 'cause see that's the one I use when I give workshops. I tell 'em, "Don't move it". They can look at it but don't move it.

0.42.44.9

AM: After starting up the day care, what kind of work did you do here in Roanoke? Who did you work for?

0.42.55.8

LL: After day care?

0.42.56.6

AM: Mm mm

0.42.57.7

LL: Oh, I worked at Roanoke Memorial and I went to take up nursing and I'm not a nurse, I'm not nursing material 'cause I wear my feelings on my cuff and you can't be a nurse and get involved with patients. You know, you got to separate yourself and I couldn't separate myself. So they put me in the newborn nursery at Roanoke Memorial and that did it. That did it. When they put me in that newborn nursery, that did it. And then they took me and – There was a little boy born and the girl didn't want him and I took up with that little boy until I finally got her - convinced the mom to take her son. And when I saw them circumsized them babies, that did it. That did it. I'll never forget it. Old Dr. Ellis was circumsizing this little boy and he strapped that little boy's hand back, hands back and his legs back and – bit! - The blood shot up and the little boy was screaming and I flew. And he told me, "Go get her". And they made me stand there and watch and that did it. It was nursing that did it. I'm serious, that did it. Mm mm. Not everybody can be a nurse. (Laughing)

0.44.48.7

AM: So what did you do after that?

0.44.52.0

LL: Well, after that they put me back on the floor and I got involved with 2 or 3 patients and every time I turn around they was calling me in something and then they say, "Now Mrs. Lucky, we can't

have that". And so I said, "Well I'm through with it" and I quit. So I ain't nursed nobody since. Hello? I ain't nursed nobody since. I take care of a baby or something, you know, but as far as nursing, uh uh.

0.45.28.8

AM: What other places did you work for besides the hospital?

0.45.32.4

LL: I worked for Social Services and I helped take care, I didn't work, I just did it. Take care of some older people and I didn't get paid for it but I did it. But I always kept my regular job which was me cooking. What else? Day care, you know. I would be doing other work.

0.46.11.2

AM: Cooking at a restaurant?

0.46.12.1

LL: Uh huh.

0.46.15.5

AM: So you just had a lot of side jobs that sustained you?

0.46.17.0

LL: Uh huh. Yeah and I worked with pregnant teenagers. I worked in the pregnant teenage program. That, I liked, because I could help them and then I didn't have to get attached to them. I had to show them how to do and that I had good success with pregnant teens. Good success with 'em 'cause I helped 'em in education and then, Oh, I did jobs, job researching, job placements and I would call companies and ask them. Like, one job, I called GE when Jim Olen (??) was there and I called Jim and I asked him. I said him that if, uh, well I don't know if somebody I knew, knew who to contact or what and he said, "If you get me so many - " I said, "You tell me what to do and I'll train 'em". And I trained him 8 people. He hired the whole 8 up at GE. And most of them has, and they retired from up there. Two of 'em was in the layoffs and the others retired. And those girls lived in Lincoln Terrace. Some was pregnant teenagers.

0.47.44.9

AM: They made careers out of that job?

0.47.45.3

LL: Yeah, some of them driving the city bus. Some of 'em was driving the city bus. When I look at that, it just – and they'd see me and they'd say, "Mrs. Lucky, I ain't having no more babies. I ain't having no more". It was one girl out of that whole class that I couldn't keep up with and she lived in Lincoln Terrace too. And she left Roanoke. She married Reverend Jeffreys (??). He used to be a Pilgrim Baptist Church. She married him and she left Roanoke with Reverend Jeffreys. I don't know where she is now. She had kids. It looked like she was one teenager was having babies one right behind the other. So she left Roanoke and most of the others, they got jobs, you know, and they stayed in touch with me for a long time. And some of them see me now, "Mrs. Lucky, you look the same". I tell 'em, "Oh girl, you're just kidding." "Yes you do Mrs Lucky". And I say, "No, you kidding". They see me and I tell 'em, Honey I'm alright. Anything they can do, I'm alright. I tell 'em, "You just take care of you and your family", just like that. A lot of 'em in church, at church and different churches. I've had some success like in Richmond, going back and forth to Richmond on committees for children and whatever, Charlottesville. I've had some success in that. But everything I did, those committees and things like 'at, Roanoke people look like was never interested any. But I could work with people like in Charlottesville, Richmond, down towards Virginia Beach and that covers a lot of area. From Charlottesville, naw let's see, from Bedford to Virginia Beach and back up, what's that place, back up there where Bessie used to live at, back up around not Bassett but its back over this way. I can't recall the name of the place. 'Cause I went there and did a training and it was welfare clients and we was training them and the people had the State Police out all around the motel. It was up near Tazwell, Virginia, that's right. It was back over in there.

0.50.40.5

AM: I want to take you back in time for a minute, 'cause I want to ask you some more questions about growing up. Do you know the names of the grandparents that raised you. What were their names? I didn't write those down.

0.50.51.0

LL: Yeah, um, Patrick Henry Moore and Mary Alice Moore.

0.51.00.5

AM: And do you remember what the house you grew up in was like? Was it brick or was it -

0.51.09.7

LL: It was a little wood house and it had a basement. It was a corner house, right on the corner and it had a basement and come to think, it was almost built like this house. It was almost built like this house but it had a basement and the kitchen was in the basement.

0.51.38.0

AM: Did you have a garden?

0.51.38.7

LL: Grandmother had chickens in the backyard and garden, had a little garden. That's where she made lye soap and all in the back yard. Mm mm.

0.51.50.9

AM: What kinds of things did you grow up eating and doing with the family?

0.51.56.8

LL: The only thing my grandmother did mostly was have me in church.

0.51.57.5

AM: And quilting right?

0.51.52.03

LL: Yeah, and quilting. Everything she did, she always had me by her side and that's her picture in there on top of that TV. You see in there with that teddy bear, that's my grandmama. That's the one that raised me.

0.52.22.5

AM: Were there any kinds of family stories that your grandparents would tell you or share with you or passed down?

0.52.28.0

LL: No, my grandmother didn't. If she did, I don't remember none of 'em no more. Oh! She would take me – my papa was working for Norfolk Western. I'd ride the train! During that time, when you're riding the train, people be dipping snuff and tobacco or whatever and we would go down to that old railroad station there and we would ride from here to North Carolina, Reedsville and Leeksville (?), North Carolina. That's where her home was and we'd go down there, and especially in July, we'd go down to, whatcha call it, something like a family – church -, a homecoming. I remember that and (laughing) my grandmother, I remember going down there and I remember one time we went down there and my aunt baked this pretty cake and that day I was being mischievous I guess and I pinched that cake and grandmother whipped my butt. And I went out in the back yard and I don't know, and they had cows and things. I went down in the barn and the hornets got after me and ran me out from down there and I swoled up. My grandmother went out in the field and got some tobacco leaves and wrapped me in 'em. I remember that well. But other than that, I just, everything was just, it wasn't too much – now my aunt, I got an aunt that lives over on Glendale. Her name is Mary Moore. She's ninety-some years old. That's my momma's sister. Now, I was raised in the house with her. Now my daddy's sister is the one that give me all this stuff here. Her name is Mary Louise French. She's the only sister living on that side. She lives up on Lafayette Boulevard but now she's with her daughter in Maryland where she stays with her daughter, up to Alena's (?). Michael French, I don't know if you've heard of him, he used to be a Greyhound Bus driver but he's not driving now 'cause he got, whatcha call it, some kind of, something he got in the service, some kind of deteriorating something. Well, he

lives over on Lafayette Boulevard. Now they was raised in this area too and they had a house right down there. That house is gone too. So all those houses are tore down.

0.55.35.3

AM: Did you grandparents ever talk to you about the Civil War or slavery or anything like that?

0.55.37.1

LL: Uh uh. The only thing that I hear about slavery is what I learned relating to my granddaddy Clark. The one that you got a picture of, John Clark, right there. He would tell me when I was a kid, I used to ride in the back of the wagon and he would be, I guess working on the reservation, whatever he was doing, I'd get in the back of the wagon and he said I'd sit in the back of the wagon and ride with him all day as a kid. That had to be before momma died 'cause that was on the reservation. Now he was born, old granddaddy - He was back 'ere enslaved because he left the reservation when he was 8 years old and I knew about him, about my granddaddy Moore, the one that raised me, I don't know about him. Now that granddaddy Clark I know about him because it seems like that my daddy's family was more concerned with me finding out about my history than my momma's family was. My aunt carried me down there where I was born at and it was in the foothills, the Cherokee foothills (laughs). Then I met Bobby Clark then I met - one thing I found out from on my momma's side that there was two set of Moores, a white set of Moores and a black set of Moores and they were from Franklin County. Hello? Now that's what I found out. Then they were involved in some parts of them was Indian but its a place called Switchback - You know where that is? - OK, Switchback, West Virginia. Poppa had some people lived in Bluefield, West Virginia and my aunt, my granddaddy's sister's children tells me about the Indians, the Indian side of my granddaddy Moore's side. Hello? That's the only one I know. That's the only way I knew about that and the only way I knew about that, we had a family reunion in Delaware and I went. I think I was the only one from Roanoke that went. I was. And I'm the only one that they keep in touch with. I don't know what Indian it was, you know, what tribe it was but granddaddy was Cherokee. He was Cherokee and there was a song to come out when he went working on the railroad and he learned how to make cross ties. And he called it "Old John Clark". That was the song they made up for my granddaddy. Now my aunt told me that, all of that. See that's all history 'cause see she tells me that, Mary Lou tells me a whole lot cause she about 10 to 12 years older than I. 'Cause when I was born - She calls me, she writes me letters and tells me I remember you when you was in your momma's womb. I have to sit and look. I said, what is her mind, trippin'? Cause she's eighty-some years old. So I just wonder, I say I wonder, I tell her, I asked her daughter, I say, "I wonder if her mind tripping". She said, "I don't know Lular Ree". She says, "Mamma's something else. She goes back and gets stuff". She carried me down there where I was born. That's how I know where the place was. That was one of my birthday presents.

1.00.51.0

AM: Did you ever sit on the porch in the evening with your grandparents?

1.00.52.3

LL: Mm mm. I used to follow my grandmother everywhere she went. She wore long dresses. Dresses like you see there? And everywhere she went, they said, "Here comes mama Moore. Here come that girl." And I'd be with her. She wouldn't leave me with nobody. Uh uh. No she wouldn't.

1.01.19.0

AM: Would you ever listen to the radio in the evening?

1.01.21.6

LL: Mm mm. She would listen to the radio and I listened to it with her. That's how we'd go to school. Dr. Pepper - Mr. Aaron Sharp (??) - He would be on the radio and he said and they would give the time and he said, "Dr. Pepper time, 10, 2 and 4". (Laughing) That's how we would go to school in the morning. And then Arty Levins (??), you heard of him? Well, he knew me when I was a small kid. My first little babysitting job, I went and babysat his kids and they lived out there in that apartment, it was the Franklin Apartment now, I don't know what they call it now, but it was out there on, you go up

the hill, you go out on Memorial Avenue and you go up that hill back over there and the apartments sits right on the corner. Kate, that's what his wife's name was, Kate. She was a red head.

1.02.43.5

AM: Do you remember when your house got your first refrigerator or telephone or anything like that? Did you have any of those things growing up?

1.02.51.0

LL: We had a telephone and we had a refrigerator. We had an ice box. The ice man would come around and grandmother would get 25 pounds of ice. Then we got a refrigerator, I don't know what year we got the refrigerator but I know we got a refrigerator. And the ice man still came around. Grandmother would get the ice and put it in the tub on the back porch 'cause she used to, she made, some kinda way, she had a tub that was made out of a barrel and it would sit there and catch rain water. Mm. That's going back some.

1.03.44.6

AM: Do you remember any of the businesses or shops that you would go to with your grandparents?

1.03.49.6

LL: No, cause we didn't go nowhere. But this building right here, that was a store.

1.03.53.1

AM: On the corner here?

1.03.53.4

LL: Right here. That was a store and there was another store on this corner and grandmother would send us to the store to get a pound of bologna and a loaf of bread everyday up here at this store. But this store right here, that was a store Miss McCadney (??) had. This was built in 1800. She lived upstairs and the store was downstairs. Then she turned it into a day care center and something happened and she died and they turned it into apartments. Somebody bought it and turned it into apartments and its vacant 'cause I've been talking to, calling down to the city, I said find out who owned it and if he'd give me the tax write-off, I'd turn it into a day care center, a youth center for the community. If you turn it into a youth center, you can still use it as a community center for the parents. 'Cause by rights, they don't have nowhere to go but the Westend Center is up there but most of the kids around here, I don't know, they, I don't know.

1.05.11.3

AM: What kinds of things would y'all do for entertainment? Were there dances? Obviously, you did a lot of things at church. Were there any dances?

1.05.19.0

LL: They had dances and things at the church, bible school 'cause I taught bible school. I teach Sunday school and I do missionary training, bible study, and I put on plays 'cause I just got one out of the bible called "Seven Lamps". I researched that in the bible and I'm gonna get it together and do a play with that for the kids and let the kids play the angels 'cause its seven angels that have to be played so the kids will play the angels 'cause its seven lamps is the seven churches, so that way they can learn what different churches are about. Corrupt church or, you know. That would play a part in their life. That's the way I've been training kids. Give them something structured to do that will make an example in their life for 'em. To tell you the truth, that's about the only thing you can do with 'em now.

1.06.29.0

AM: What are some of your fondest childhood memories?

1.06.36.7

LL: My grandmother, I was in a play up here at the church and my grandmother took a pair of curtains and made me a white dress out of. A pair of curtains had ruffles on it and she made me this little dress and it had little ruffles, made a little pinafore-like thing to tie across the front. I'll never forget that and I was the flower girl walking down the aisle behind that man right there, Paul Scott and Jimmy Cooks' mama. Mm mm. That I long remember because Miss Golden, they kept me into something up there.

So grandmother had to kinda like do the best she could with what she had.

1.07.38.9

AM: Do you think that the church raised you as much as your grandmother?

1.07.42.5

LL: Yes, yes. Since I've been sick, that church has been very good to me and I tell 'em, I say, "You know what? This is my home." And I said, "This little house that I'm in, God must've got me here 'cause I've been twenty-some years. 'Cause when I moved in this house, Herman, my son, - Now my grandson is 21 and I was here before he was born. That's a long time.

1.08.30.3

AM: Who do you think were your role models growing up?

1.08.40.2

LL: Who was my role models when I was growing up? Miss Madge Wheaton was one of 'em. Miss Golden.

1.08.59.7

AM: And what did those women do in the community?

1.09.02.5

LL: Miss Madge Wheaton, she was a teacher but she was something at the church and Miss Golden was a teacher, a Sunday school teacher, teaching everything else.

1.09.13.1

AM: What did you admire about them?

1.09.14.9

LL: I don't know. Its just the time they gave me. Especially Miss Golden. They took up so much time with me. Just like now, I belong to the missionary and some of those women in the missionary knew me when I was small and they called me and one of them, Miss Mary Fanason (??) - I've always loved her. She's a little bitty something. We used to see her with this big man and we used to tell my grandmother, "What that old man doing with that little girl?" And that was his wife. And I told her about it. (Laughing) She said, "Lular!". I said, "Yes ma'am, I said it." And another lady, Sarah Bratan (??), she's small too and she's always, her and Miss Jenny Mao (??), they stand out in my life because they always had something good to say to me - always some kinda way to encourage me. Its not in what you do, its how you do it. Its just - I don't know, its like now, up there at Jerusalem, I went back to church Sunday, the first time since I've been sick and it was just - to see some of those older women that knew me when I was small - It was just, it was beautiful. I'm 78 years old and if I'm 78 years old and they knew me when I was small, they up in age. I'm serious, they up in age. Its just wonderful. But to see - I don't know.

1.11.22.1

AM: What keeps you going everyday? It sounds like to me you spend a lot of your time doing what you can for others and taking care of young women and giving them advice like, what keeps you going?

1.11.35.6

LL: Its living and being able to even sit and like talking to you. That's enough - That keeps me going. Its just so much. To know that somebody care for you and I always - what keeps me going, I don't never, this is going to sound crazy, but I don't never feel alone. I may get lonely but I don't feel alone. I don't. Most of the time, I'm here by myself and my son has boys and I'm just here and the kids come in and they're my comfort. Them kids, they are my comfort. And its one little baby here, she's turned 4 weeks old, 6 weeks old, yesterday or today and I didn't know that her momma was pregnant. And I saw her walking up and down the street, I said, "You alright Kiki?". "Yes ma'am Miss Lucky, I'm alright". And the next thing I know, the next day the girl had a baby. And that little baby, she brings that baby over here, that little baby is just something else. I talk to her and she goes (making baby sounds), watching. She wasn't even 3 weeks old and she was watching everything. It looks like she's

watching TV. People keep me going. That's the only thing I can say. God and people, that's what keeps me going.

1.13.41.8

AM: If you could share one thing with your great-great grandchildren who will listen to this interview at the library years from now, what would you want them to know about you and your life?

1.13.55.3

LL: That I love 'em and just don't worry about small things. If you're going to worry about anything, the things that are better you not small things, little material things. I don't know, just know, show love. Love is not boss, hello? Real love is for real and you'll know if a person loves you by the way that they talk to you, they come to you, they treat you. Everybody don't treat you with love. That's it. They don't. Even your people don't treat you with love, your relatives, they don't. They really don't. I got sister-in-laws (sigh) and I call them, they don't call me. One of 'em call me, but I call them, they don't call me. One get sick, I try to get in touch with 'em and see if they alright but they don't bother me. It don't bother me 'cause I tell 'em right quick, I'm about God's business. If God's business is me loving everybody, then that's what I'm about. And that's it. I tell it, I'm serious. And if I can't do you good, I ain't gonna do you no harm. I'm gonna get out your way. (Long pause)

1.16.08.4

AM: Is there something in the community that gives you hope about the future, because you said that some things have changed for the worse and some things aren't going good? Is there something going right?

1.16.20.2

LL: I hope in the future that the churches would take a more vital interest in the community with whomever lives in the community around their church 'cause they need help. You hear me? They need help. You got young people living all with young babies and all, they don't know everything. They gonna need some help. And the church should be the one to help 'em. I'm serious. And I like I tell 'em, I said, - let's see, Jerusalem has a new minister and I tell him, I said, you know what? The church is a part of the community whether we like it or not, its there. I said, some people, some churches don't even know that they're part of the community. They think they're on a corner and, well, they're on the corner and they're doing what they want to do. That's not the way the church is supposed to be. Its not. The neighborhood, the alliance is a good thing that happened but then, you see, the neighborhood, neighborhoods don't work with everybody in the neighborhood. They set themselves aside. That's not the way to do, set yourself aside. Its not the way to do. I learned that.

1.17.49.9

AM: Do you think the neighborhood alliance is trying to do good things for Hurt Park to bring people back together?

1.17.56.1

LL: It depends on what you're talking about. OK? If you're talking about, you say Hurt Park, all of this is Hurt Park, well that part up there don't include this as Hurt Park down here. Hello? And this, according to the map, Hurt Park runs from here to Park Street. But in the peoples' mind, Hurt Park don't run from here to Park Street. Hurt Park runs from Shaver's Crossing up to about 13th Street or 12th Street.

1.18.36.9

AM: And this would be West End? What would people call this?

1.18.42.6

LL: That park they got down there, they say is Prairie Park. But that's wrong. If its Hurt Park, why ain't the park named Hurt Park down here instead of Prairie Park. You don't do things like that. I don't know. Maybe I'm wrong.

1.19.02.6

AM: What neighborhood do you identify with yourself, if you were to tell someone what

neighborhood you're from?

1.19.09.2

LL: I'm just here. I'm just here. (laughing) I'm just here. That's all. I just say I'm from this here. I live on Norfolk Avenue and I'm just here. Coming up, this was always just Southwest and all these little names have come up here lately but if you're gonna be one name, you got to be everything and see Southwest and there was West End. Everything up here was West End. Now, West End since back one place, whatever, whatever, I don't know. I don't even try to get into it. But maybe someday, somebody will get it together. I don't know. It won't be in my time, it will be in somebody's time.

1.20.03.4

AM: Is there anything I haven't asked you about that you want to tell me about your community?

1.20.05.3

LL: Naw. I don't think. I just learned so much about Indian stuff about Roanoke, I just don't know. I don't know. I don't think so.

1.20.34.8