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JC: Well, ma'am, how did you come to Huntington?

CB: How did I come here? [JC: Yes.] Well, ah, ah, I was in school in Granville, Ohio, the location of Denison University, and my husband came to, ah, Denison, and we rode to school together. We got acquainted and like you folks do (laughter). And, then, ah, of course, ah, after our marriage, why, ah, ah, we didn't come here directly, but, ah, he taught school out in, further out in West Virginia. And, then when they needed a principal here for this school, why, they sent for him

JC: What school was that ma'am? What, what was the name of the school?

CB: Douglass. No, no! Yes, it was Douglass. It was Douglass. Its name was, let me see, now, how is that? Yes, it was Douglass School. And, the colored schools here was first named Douglass when, and, and it was elementary. All the school, well, in fact, it was elementary when my husband came here. They, it grew into a high school under my husband. [JC: Yes.] And, ah, then when they changed it, when they separated the elementary from the high school, the high school over on, ah, Ninth Street, and they called it Douglass and, ah, named the Bar--the school that, ah, was, ah, Douglass, the elementary school was named Barnett. So that's when they

JC: That was named after your father?

CB: No, my, my husband's father.

JC: Oh, it was your husband, your husband's father. [CB: Uh huh.] Now, I see. Ah, what year did you come to Huntington?

CB: Well, I would have to count (inaudible) (laughter). I don't remember dates. My, ah, oldest son was about three years old, and now he's seventy seven, seventy seven.

JC: I see. So, it was approximately [CB: Huh?], ah, seventy four years ago that you come to Huntington.

CB: Yes, yes, but now I didn't stay in Huntington those seventy four years. [JC: Oh, I see.] I'd been away from here. I stayed in school, I stayed here until my children, my two, I've got two boys. I stayed here until they were, ah, school age.

And, on account of the system here, I knew I never could educate two boys in, in West Virginia, and then I moved back to Ohio. Ah, my mother took them, took, my, ah, children with her until, ah, when they first entered school. She lived in Ohio, and they entered school in Ohio in Granville, Ohio. That's where my mother lived, and, ah, they went to, ah, the, ah, school, the public school there in, ah, Granville [JC: Uh huh.] until one was in the fifth grade, and the other was in the third, and then, ah, I, ah, moved to Columbus. We moved to Columbus, and then they went to the, ah, public schools and, and Ohio State University, both of them.

JC: I see. Ah, you said you didn't, ah, you didn't feel that you could educate your because of the system here. [CB: Yeah, because] What was the system like

CB: Well there are separate here, they were separate, and, ah, ah, I Douglass School was so far from here. It was Douglass, no, Douglass, it was so far from here to school. Ah, ah, child six years old couldn't walk it. [JC: Uh huh.] And, then and then, ah, when they got ready to go to college, you couldn't go to college here [JC: I see.], and it was on account of segregation that I moved. [JC: Uh huh.] And, ah, the year, the year that my youngest son was in the last year that he was in college, my husband passed away. [JC: I see.] And, then I came back here, and that's been 51 years ago.

JC: And, you've lived here ever since.

CB: So everythings happened fifty years one years (inaudible) (laughter)

JC: Ah (pause), well, ah, ah, so you've been a resident of Huntington or this vicinity for, well, steady for 51 years and even before that.

CB: How's that?

JC: You've lived in Huntington actually more than 51 years.

CB: Oh, yes, yes. Ah, we, ah, lived here (pause). I'm trying to think (inaudible), because we built this house. [JC: Did you?]

We built the house and rented it to the family of, ah, Tweels.
 [JC: The Tweel family.] The Tweel family and there lived two families in this house, and it's, ah, it's, ah, it's almost 70 some years. [JC: Seventy some years old.] Uh huh. This house is, and, ah, Bill Tweel, he comes here just because he was born here. He comes to see me all the time (Laughter). Bill called me up the other day. I don't know why, asked me my first name. I don't know what he's going to do (laughter), but he's going to do something. Nice family, a lovely family.
 [JC: Yes, they are.] We two families were the only ever that ever lived here. She had all of her family was born in this house. Ah, that's the reason Bill says he thinks so much of the house, and he wants me to have it in my Will that he can, ah, buy the house when I pass away (laughter).

JC: Ah, you were born and educated in Ohio, right, in Granville?

CB: I wasn't born in Granville, ah, ah, I got my education by living with country folks, and I went to country school until, ah, until I got in, ah, in high school, a little one-room school.

JC: Was this an integrated school?

CB: Huh?

JC: Was it integrated?

CB: Oh, I, I don't know anything anything about a integrated school. I never went to an integrated school.

JC: Is that right?

CB: In Ohio, we went to, ah, schools were all mixed. No difference in Ohio. And, a strange thing they, they was a time when they didn't have integrated schools, and my cousin was the one that they had (inaudible) about opening the schools for Negroes.

[JC: Is that right?] Uh huh. [JC: Oh, well.] (Inaudible) and we're about the same age, same age, and, ah, he had a friend in, ah, in the Legislature [JC: Yes.] and, ah, he put, he was very influential. And, we thought a great deal of him all over Ohio (inaudible) that the schools should be mixed. Although, although, we, our family, my, the Jackson family [JC: Yeah.] never had any, never had any trouble. I always

went to an all white school, and we rode horse, only colored one there. I mean, I mean my family was the only colored in this school. [JC: Huh.]

JC: Ah, were your parents originally from, ah, Ohio?

CB: My parents?

JC: Yes.

CB: Oh, my parents, ah, ah, my grandmother came from North Carolina, and, ah, I think, I don't know whether, I don't know whether, yes, mother was born in North Carolina, and they moved to Zanesville, Zanesville, Ohio. [JC: I know Zanesville.] And, ah, my, ah, father's people lived in, ah, in Zanesville, and they came from Pennsylvania.

JC: Your mother was born in North Carolina? Ah, was your grandmother a slave or was she

CB: Well, I, I don't, I, I never could straighten it out. Ah, ah, ah, she was freed, ah, they call, they, they call, there were a class of Negroes they called (inaudible) free and what (inaudible) free meant I don't know. But, but they were free, wasn't a slave, and my grandmother was a (inaudible) free. Ah, you find out what that is, I'll be glad (laughter).

JC: When I find out, I'll, I'll let you know. Ah, ah, the railroad was very important, ah, to the black community here. Did many people, did many blacks work on the railroad in Huntington?

CB: Well, now, I've got a real, real story to tell you about that [JC: Oh.] that, about railroad. I, I thought it was interesting enough for me to (inaudible). My, ah, my father-in-law walked out here before the railroad, the C & O Railroad was built. [JC: Is that right?] My father-in-law walked up here from Virginia before the railroad was built, ah, they were building it, however, before. And, ah, he saw how badly they needed help [JC: Uh huh.] and then he walked back to Virginia and hired his brother-in-law who had a team of horses and brought as many men as he could put on that, on the, ah, wagon [JC: Uh huh.] out here, and they worked on the C & O Railroad.

JC: Is that right? Do you remember what they were paid for a day's,

ah, labor?

CB: No.

JC: But, all the work was done by hand?

CB: Not all the work. Oh, no. They had they (inaudible), they had other hands. But, they came, and you know to add to the help that they already had as I understand it, and, ah, ah, ah, James Woodson was, ah, my father-in-law's brother, brother, was my, was my father-in-law's brother-in-law (laughter), and he was around here. He got to come out with his wagon, his team of horses, and wagon, and bring men. And, he worked on the railroad until work that they was doing had been finished or the line or whatever they was doing, and then he went to work for the C & O Company, and I don't, I don't suppose they any shops here. I don't reckon they did. But, anyway, he went to work with the Company, and he never had any other job in his life only what, when he left there, he worked for the C & O and worked until he passed away, 'til he retired.

JC: Uh huh. This was, ah, James Woodson.

CB: He took care, you know, they gave him a job someplace until he as long as he could work, why, he had work under the C & O Company.

JC: That's, that's very nice, ah

CB: By the way, I just want to throw this in, I don't know whether you all are interested in, ah, Carter Woodson, do you

JC: Yes, I was going to ask. Is he any relation to Carter Woodson?

CB: Well, this James Woodson was Carter Woodson's father.

JC: Is that right? Oh, I didn't know that. He came all the way from Virginia. Hmmm. Ah....

CB: I knew Carter very well. Carter was a cousin of mine, and I don't mine of the family's, the Barnett family.

JC: I see. Ah, the, ah, did most of the blacks, ah, in, in and around Huntington work for the C & O?

CB: Well, ah, not most of 'em. I don't know about the number that worked for them, but, ah, a number of them did work for the Company. I know the, that was a main industry through here for, for a number of years, and they always hired, ah, Negroes.

JC: I see. Ah, Lowell would like to ask you some questions about, ah, education.

CB: How's that?

JC: Lowell would like to ask about black education in Huntington.

LB: I think you said a lot about the education as the segregating type as so you could not raise your sons in a separate system. Ah, you mentioned about that you could not raise your sons in a separate system.

CB: Well, I couldn't. You can easily see how it was on account of integration that I didn't raise my sons. Now, if I could if they could have gone to school to the nearest school that's the way that in Ohio when they passed their law that was all that, ah, separated the schools was the district they lived in. [JC: Is that right?] You went to the nearest school. It didn't make any difference what it was.

JC: The schools weren't segregated in Ohio?

CB: Well, I said when they passed, they passed the law they were segregated, but when they passed the law to integrate the schools, you just went to the nearest school. Well, I knew that my boys, my, if they could have gone down here to Burlington, they could have walked that distance, but I knew they couldn't go, walk the distance up to Sixteenth Street. A little child only six years old. Ah, now, I separate, I went to Ohio in order to education my children on account of the school system.

LB: Well, what about the quality of education in the black school? How was the education, say, somewhat (inaudible) to a black school. Ah, you know, would they learn as much?

CB: I wonder why (inaudible). See if I can hear you any better.

LB: Okay. About the quality of education in the black schools. Ah, what were some of the black schools? You mentioned Douglass. Were there any more that existed at this time?

CB: I understand you better than I do

JC: Ah, Douglass, ah, was a totally black school. [CB: Huh?] Douglass was a totally black school. Was there any other black schools in this region at this time? Douglass was the only one, ah.

CB: They never, they, they when, when we, let me see now. When we came here, yes, my, my husband was the first, the first, when they opened up the schools they didn't have but one room and Douglass, they called it Douglass. Douglass was the, ah, black school. And, then, ah, ah, just recently, not just recently, but then it's been, ah, possibly 30 years ago (inaudible) (laughter). They went, ah, they were, I guess, must have been about 40 or 50 years ago they built another school down when they got so many children in the west end, colored children in (inaudible) they go to school down there and called that McKinney School. [JC: McKinney School.] So, they had two schools then, and Douglass was a fairly, ah, children up this way and then McKinney.

JC: Didn't they build a school, ah, Johnson Hall? The Johnson Hall School? You don't know. Ah. [CB: Douglass is the only high school they have here.] I see. Ah, was it, was it, was it a good quality education that the Negro children could receive at Douglass?

CB: Well, ah, they pretended to have the same, but you know they always said, they always said separate but equal [JC: Yes.], but you know that never was true. [JC: That's right.] They, they always was inferior, and, ah, I knew it for years. I knew it because I, I went to high school, but I, and I really (inaudible) college schools, just, just missed it. [JC: Uh huh.] And, I'd go quite, ah, commencement and colors, and you'd be surprised the difference the, the talk would be when the superintendent would talk to the Negroes and then talk to the same (inaudible) of white people, white children [JC: Uh huh.] so they didn't expect the Negroes to go any further than high school. They didn't expect them to be educated.

- JC: Wanted them to go to work on the C & O Railroad.
- CB: And, I just, I just wished and hoped and prayed for the time to come when we could just be American citizens and have the same rights and privileges of any other American citizen, but they've never wanted us to have that (inaudible) authority. [JC: Uh huh.]
- JC: You mentioned Carter Woodson. Ah, could you tell me a little bit about Carter Woodson?
- CB: Carter Woodson? Yes, I can tell you anything about Carter Woodson. Carter Woodson painted, ah, I lived back there. I had another house back then. Carter Woodson painted my house once (laughter), and Carter Woodson like my sister very much, too (inaudible). Carter Woodson never married.
- JC: He remained a bachelor.
- CB: That's right and he's had, he had two, now, I'm not counting my sister any at all, but he had two girls that he thought. I, Jessee thought we thought, we thought a whole lot of him. That is, his brother took both of them away from him (laughter) and married the last girl he took away and just (inaudible) her affection and then they, he married the last one, and I thought he was going to (inaudible). And, I said, "Carter Woodson, Carter, why, why didn't you" and I can't think of her name now, "marry?" "Oh," said, "(inaudible) wanted her, and if he wanted her, I wanted him to have her." (laughter) (inaudible) He, ah, never married.
- JC: Well, ah, how was Douglass financially supported?
- CB: It was a state school.
- JC: It was a state school at the time.
- CB: Always.
- JC: But, the financial support probably wasn't as great as say, ah.
- CB: Was just a public school, just like we have [JC: Yes.], just like the high school

JC: I see, and there was, ah, a black faculty, black teachers.

CB: No, we never had any black, ah, yes, teachers were all black.

JC: All black, I see.

CB: Uh huh. You know, I don't like that word, black, cause I've been called a black nigger so much and I (inaudible) it. You white folks would call me that (laughs).

JC: Yeah, I can't dispute you there.

CB: And (inaudible), it just goes through me because I just feel they are leaving off the last part of it (laughter). I don't like it a bit.

JC: What, ah, what were the churches like, ah.

CB: Well, now, ah, the churches, ah, [JC: In the Negro community.] my, my, my father who walked out, my father-in-law who walked out here and walked back was a minister. [JC: He was?] He had worked on the railroad. [JC: That's Mr. Barnett?] Not that he ever told me about him working with it. But, oh, yes, I tell you what he did for the railroad. He had a lunch counter, that was it. He had an eating place for them. [JC: He ran a little diner.] And, he didn't work on the road, but he had a eating place. [JC: I see.] I'm quite sure of that then, of course, he was a minister. He was the pastor of First Baptist Church here, and, ah, speaking about the churches, ah, when, ah, ah, back in the early times, the Methodist and Baptist worshipped together when, ah, when they first came here. And, ah, the Bap--they, ah, occupied the same building and Methodists would have it one Sunday and the Baptists would have it the next [JC: Is that right?] until, ah, I don't know, 'til they got able to have their own building and then the First Baptist had, ah, a little place. I don't know whether it was a little building way up the other side of Sixteenth Street. I don't know exactly where it was, but they had it. The Baptist had got their building and Methodist had theirs, and, ah, they made themselves Ebenezer Baptist and, ah, this, ah, the First Baptist called themselves, ah, Mt. Olive for a long time (inaudible). When the First Baptist, when the First, Fifth Avenue Baptist wanted to take the name First Baptist, well, they decided they

wanted the name First Baptist, so they found a place (inaudible).

JC: So, for a number of

CB: I, I was in Nashville, Tennessee, in one of the, ah, (inaudible) school, and they take, took contributions, they was supported by various churches all over the state in Nashville, and I got several boxes from Fifth Avenue Baptist Church and called themselves First Baptist when I was down there.

JC: Is that right? [CB: Uh huh.] How long ago was that?

CB: Oh, that's been at least, forty or forty, oh, forty, forty, at least, oh, yes, forty or at least forty or forty-five years.

JC: Is that right? So for a long time in Huntington there was only one black, ah, Negro church.

CB: Oh, there's other Negro churches, yes.

JC: Yes, now, there is but originally.

CB: I don't know. I don't know how long after the, but these two churches I think were the only two church that was in Huntington for a number of years.

JC: Uh huh. Ah, these churches were supported by the congregation.

[CB: Yes.] By the Negro congregation. Ah, who was, ah, you said your father-in-law was the minister of the Baptist Church.

[CB: Uh huh. For 40 years.] Did he have a formal education or was he.

CB: Well (inaudible), he couldn't read when he came here. [JC: Is that right?] And, he just felt like that they wanted him, and he was such a good man, they wanted him for a minister, but he felt like he just had, he had to have an education. He moved from here to Ironton, took his family to Ironton, and he and his family went to Ironton to school together.

JC: Is that right, the whole family. [CB: Uh huh.] And, he learned how to read, and he came back.

CB: He learned to read and write how to do business. He was really a businessman, too. When he passed away, he left all that

corner, you know where those, ah, little motels are up there on the corner [JC: Yeah.] well, all he owned all of that corner [JC: Did he really?] clear to Tenth Street. [JC: (Whistles) That's a sizable piece of land.] and he left that to his children.

JC: Ah, are they still in Huntington?

CB: Well, I don't know, don't know (inaudible). But, ah, what he left, he sold part of it. He sold a little part. He sold, ah, he left, ah, ah, he had four children, and he, Dr. Barnett, and and, ah, Josephine was a teacher and (inaudible). Oh, and, and, and my, my husband that's four, and he left all his property so if one didn't, ah, ah, I don't know how the deal made out, if one didn't pay for it and the other did, they got the whole thing.

JC: Is that right (laughter)?

CB: So, I had to pay for it for the part that, ah, George he was getting, giving George that little cottage there. Now, if you notice those motels on that corner then there's a house [JC: Yeah.] then there's a little house, another house, well, my son built that house, the house next to the hotel. [JC: Yes, your son, Carl.] Yes. He built that. And, then that other house was given to George. Well, George never paid for it, and I had it to do, so I paid for that so that made us own from the little house dear to Ninth Street.

JC: Ah, your father-in-law then, getting back to the church [CB: Huh?] was a self, getting back to the church, ah, your father-in-law was a self-ordained minister?

CB: Oh, yes, no. He was ordained.

JC: He was ordained?

CB: Ordained minister.

JC: Oh, I see. I'm sorry I misunderstood. Ah, was there, ah, ah, did any whites ever attend the Negro services?

CB: Attend church? Well, they'd visit, just like they do now. Nobody, white people don't ever attend a Negro church. Ah,

none that I've ever been to, but, ah, they do attend once in a while. Bill Tweel comes up sits with me (inaudible) (laughter). Ohhh.

JC: Bill, isn't Bill Tweel, ah, ah, Jewish person?

CB: No, he's a Syrian.

JC: Oh, oh. [CB: Uh huh.] (laughter) Ah.

CB: Ah, that Professor Yablonski, do you know him? He was in charge in Marshall, he's retired from Marshall. Yablonski. [JC: Yes.] Well, he comes over there sometimes, but then to come regularly, they don't do it.

JC: Ah, what was the, ah, influence of the Negro church on the Negro community? Did they.

CB: What is the influence? Well, I think, I think the Negro church has as much influence over their members as any other church. I think that the pastor we've got now, ah, Reverend Smith, I think he has an unusual amount of influence over both white and colored. [JC: Uh huh.] Now, I don't think the white people all liked him [JC: No.], but then, ah, ah, they know he was around. [JC: Uh huh.]

JC: Ah, fifty years ago, though, ah, did the, did the Negro church, ah, have a great influence over their congregation, say fifty years ago?

CB: I, I don't know. I don't think it was, of course, you (inaudible) Christianity change Christianity is changing. I, I don't think that they, I think it was just like we said. I don't think that you just have some members in the church that are faithful and some that are not.

JC: Ah, how did the Negro church, ah, view the white community?

CB: How's that?

JC: How were the race relations?

CB: Just about the same as it is now.

JC: Just, ah, you leave us alone, and we'll leave you alone.

CB: Each one, ah, each one attended their own church. I don't think there's any difference.

Side Two

CB: And, then everybody had those courses. Now, all the churches would go together for the Sunday School improvement [JC: Yes.] and whenever we'd have, ah, have, ah, have a, ah, class or a come together to study, why, I took the courses with them. I have a pack of, ah, certificates up there (laughter). I've gone, I've gone every year, every year when I was able to go.

JC: You still go to church regularly?

CB: Huh?

JC: You still go to church every Sunday?

CB: Well, yes, I go. I go every Sunday, but, ah, my hearing is, ah, a disadvantage to me.

JC: Ah, your father-in-law, ah, Dr. Barnett, did, ah, he have a great influence on, ah, the black community?

CB: Oh, yes, yes, everybody, everybody felt (inaudible) everybody called him Pap Barnett, and he had wonderful influence over people. [JC: Is that right?] I was, ah, there was a class, ah, a bus came from Columbus to visit First Baptist Church [JC: Uh huh.] about two months ago, and I said, "Well, there can't be a bus come from the First, from Columbus, from the church without somebody being in it that I taught in Sunday school." (laughs) And, I was just so surprised and pleased at the number of old gray-headed ladies.

JC: That you have taught in Sunday School?

CB: And, one of them said that Pap Barnett baptised her.

JC: Is that right?

CB: Uh huh.

JC: That is really something. Ah, did your father-in-law besides having a great influence on the church, did he have any influence on education?

CB: Oh, yes, he was just in for all of that. [JC: Uh huh.] Dr. Barnett went to (inaudible) University [JC: In Washington?] and my husband graduated from, ah, Denison University and his daughter, who is a teacher here in Douglass School. George was just kind of a black sheep of the family, wouldn't do anything. But, he wasn't a bad person but then he was just one of those careless people that didn't, didn't care. He just waited table and was just one of those happy-go-lucky boys. Everybody liked him.

JC: Uh huh. Ah, they named the Barnett, ah, School after your father-in-law. [CB: Yes. Uh huh.] Uh huh. Ah, when was that created, the Barnett School?

CB: Well, ah, the Barnett School came into existence when the high school moved over on Ninth Street. Well, you see, they're all together over there. No, no. When they, when they, when the school got too large they built, they had, ah, ah, built, ah, oh, they weren't, ah, substantial buildings but just a little, ah, I don't know what you would call them. Ah, it but they built, ah, over on Ninth Street. They had two or three rooms for the children [JC: Uh huh.] on account of knowing that when they got out of Douglass over there, why, they was going back, the elementary was going back over on, ah, Sixteenth Street. [JC: I see.] And, the high school was over on Ninth, and they built just a temporary school buildings [JC: Uh huh.] until over on Ninth until they went back and that's when they named it Barnett.

JC: Uh huh. Well, I see. Ah, do you like Huntington, by the way?

CB: Do I like it?

JC: Yes.

CB: I like everyplace I ever lived, and I've always found just the finest people in everyplace that I've ever been.

JC: You remind me of Will Rogers ma'am.

CB: Who?

JC: Will Rogers who once said he never met a man he didn't like.
I think, ah.

CB: Well, and I have a parking lot back of the house here, and I just have the nicest folks on that parking lot. One boy came to rent a, a, ah, a space the other day, and he was just dressed neat and clean and nice. Had on red, I believe he had on a, I know he had on a red sweater. Anyway, he was just really, really just plain if he wasn't, wasn't fancy or anything, and he had long hair. And, his face was just as clean, and I said, "Well, now, if you was a, if ah," no, I said, "a complement to a man would be that he's handsome, but I wouldn't say you're handsome and to, ah, a lady I'd say, oh, how pretty." And, I said, "I know you don't want me to give you a complement that I give a lady, but your hair is beautiful." (laughter) And, it was. He was just, was just combed so nice and curl, fluff in it that it looked and I just have the nicest kind of folks out there. [JC: Uh huh.] Just the nicest kind. And, and I want to tell you about that lot, too. When our church was to be built over here, First Baptist.

JC: When was that?

CB: Oh, was about, I think, an, maybe about, ah, let's see, lot's been here 12 years, I expect about six or eight years and maybe eight or ten years ago. It burnt and had, and, ah, we either had to fix up the church or built a new one. And, ah, there was a question whether we could build because the church didn't have any parking space, and they require a church to have parking space now. And, this lot runs from here clear to the alley, 200 feet back, and I had a house on , on the back parking lot, and, ah, ah, I just got thinking about what I could do. Well, I know what I can do, just to myself. I didn't tell, not even my son. I didn't tell him. I said I would rather have that old house down, torn down and make a parking lot out of my yard. [JC: Is that right?] And, I had it torn down and made a parking lot, and I park 12 cars, I can park 12 cars out there. And, I had it done for the church. I never thought about making a dime off of it when I did it. [JC: Uh huh.] And, and the church don't need it only on Sunday, and the folks don't need it on Sunday (laughter), so I just rent the parking lot (inaudible) (laughter).

JC: Did the black, ah, did the Negro community, was it closely knit, ah, when you first came to Huntington?

CB: How's that?

JC: Was it closely knit as far as, ah, the relationships between Negro and Negro, were, were they close?

CB: The Negroes, you mean together? [JC: Yes.] Well, I don't see any difference.

JC: No real difference.

CB: Oh, no. I don't see any difference in people over the years. People are just the same, just same old human beings. [JC: Yes.] Some good ones and some bad ones.

JC: Did they live in the in same area?

CB: Huh?

JC: Ah, did the Negroes all live in the same area?

CB: They don't want to, but you all want us in the same area. That's the reason we're having all this trouble about these (inaudible). [JC: I see.] You want to keep one big ghetto out of Negroes and keep them all in one spot, and then say the niggers live down here (laughter).

LB: Mrs. Barnett, did you make this, ah.

JC: That's beautiful, ah.

CB: That's for sale, too.

LB: Do you make any quilts?

CB: Huh?

LB: Quilts.

CB: Oh, yes, I've got some beautiful quilts.

LB: Are they for sale?

CB: Huh?

LB: Are they for sale?

CB: I can't let you see them, because, you know, they had a art and crafts sale up here last week. Did you know about it?

[JC: Yes.] Well, my things were up there.

JC: Are you still making quilts and blankets?

CB: Uh huh.

LB: Are they for sale?

CB: That's for sale.

LB: Are the quilts for sale for a double bed?

CB: Yeah. I, I called a woman, I called a woman last night and told her I wanted her to bring my things back. I'm going to have a little gift shop out here. It's all ready to put the things out there. I've had it painted, and I've had my venetian shades cleaned, and, ah, there put (inaudible) and pillows and, ah, what else, we cro--we crocheted this, and, ah, I've got a friend who helps me, and we crochet anything.

LB: ah, do you have a quilt for a big bed?

CB: Huh?

LB: How much are they?

CB: Nobody has any idea how much work goes into a quilt, and they don't sell well because a quilt, a quilt it would take, oh, some--some-times takes me for months. You know, you've got to cut out little pieces, and then sew them together (inaudible) and set them up (inaudible) quilt it and (inaudible).

LB: How much would you sell one for?

CB: Huh?

LB: How much do you sell them?

CB: Well, I, I take, I don't see why anybody wouldn't want to pay me just like they pay anybody else.

LB: Well, I want to buy, I was to buy two.

CB: Well, ah, quilts sell for, ah, 75 and 100 dollars.

JC: That's reasonable enough. Well, Mrs. Barnett it's surely, ah, very nice talking with you, and, ah, I'm going to turn off the tape recorder now, but, ah, do you have something else to add? Some words you want to tell me.

CB: Let me see if I do (pause). Oh, yes! About, ah, ah, the, ah, ah, when I came here transportation was, there was an, an old colored man who had a (inaudible) out here at the station. And, ah, whenever they'd have a wedding here and (inaudible) white people
[JC: Is that right?] would have a wedding, they'd call that (inaudible) to take them to the station (laughter), and later on there was a livery stable here. I forget the man's name. And, and there was a street, the only streetcar that we had was the one that run from the C & O Station to the B & O Station [JC: Uh huh.], and that was pulled by mules. I think that's about all I had to say.

JC: Ah, may I copy those notes that you

CB: Oh, you couldn't make those out. I just jotted things down. I, I don't expect anybody could read my writing (laughter). I don't think you can do a thing with it. Not a thing, because I know what I gonna, just put down a little something, and I knew what I was going to say, and you wouldn't know what I was going to say. You couldn't make anything out of it.

JC: Who, who was that first teacher you had on that page?

CB: James, James was the first, ah, paid teacher, well, first paying ah, school teacher I had his name was James. Then after he passed away, his wife taught, and then this was the beginning of the colored schools. There wasn't more than a half a dozen went to James, and then after he passed away his wife taught and then when she taught, after, when she, ah, went finally she was teaching. She, ah, retired, they hired McKinney. McKinney was a teacher, and then after McKinney, he stayed here a long time.

JC: Was this a one-room school house?

CB: Well, they had built up Douglass under McKinney.

JC: I see. This James, he taught.

CB: No, Mrs. James passed away.

JC: Yes, but where did she teach?

CB: She taught in a one-room school [JC: I see.], and, and James taught in a one-room until they built, ah, Douglass [JC: Yes.], and, ah, after, ah, McKinney, well, my husband was hired.

JC: I see. Well, ah, did Mr. James, Mrs. James, Mr. McKinney was under your father-in-law.

CB: Uh huh. Uh huh. Not my father-in-law, my husband. [JC: Your husband?] And, after my husband, ah, Scott, it was Scott I think.

JC: Was there a Washington or (inaudible)?

CB: Huh?

JC: A Washington or a (inaudible)?

CB: Well, ah, Washington taught with, ah, he wasn't principal. He, he taught here, but he wasn't principal. Ah, (inaudible) was principal. That's been just recently. [JC: Yes.] I can't think who was there. There was Professor Simms taught there, too. You know, one of, one of the main things old lady is that they're forgetful.

JC: Well, ma'am, you're no different than, ah, any other person, because all human beings are forgetful.

CB: I, I am where do you go to church?

LB: Ah, I used to go, but you see I left Logan. You know where Logan, West Virginia, is? It's the Coal Street Baptist Church.

CB: I'm in the men's Bible class over at church. I'm the only, ah, I for a long time, I was the only woman in class, and there's

another woman is coming in there recently. They told me they wasn't going to have no other woman but me, but I didn't care if they did (laughter). I'd like you to join our class. We've been asked to get new members.

LB: Where's this? This is First Baptist. [CB: Right over here.] Okay. Right, right. I'll drop over to see you sometime.

CB: Don't drop in sometime (laughter). I want that (inaudible) remember. I want you to come regularly. Like my son called me up. I was going over there in the class before my son. And, he called one morning, Sunday morning, and I was snowing, and he was afraid that I would fall [JC: Uh huh.]. And, he called me up he said, "Mother," said, "don't go to church," said, "don't go to class this morning and next Sunday morning if it's bad next Sunday, I'll come over and take you over there." I said, "Well, I don't want you to come and take me over there unless you're going to stay." So, he took me over to stay, and now he's one of my best members (laughter) even after two years now.

JC: Mrs. Barnett, I can't thank you enough for allowing us to hold this interview.

CB: Well, I think, I don't think I've done so much. [JC: Oh, you have.] But, I'm, I'm happy to have you come.

JC: Well, we're happy to come, and maybe you'll invite us back sometime.

CB: And, If there's anything I can ever do for you, let me know.

JC: Well, I will, ma'am.

JC: Annotations on Mrs. Callie J. Barnett interview. November 2, 1972, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Conducting the interview is John Cyrus and Lowell Black.

I found Mrs. Barnett to be an extremely charming woman. Her memory failed in some places and her train of thought, ah, was not the greatest but for a person of a hundred and one years old, ah, it was very clear. She spoke extremely well. She was an articulate lady. She was, ah, obviously an educated lady and very proud lady. This, of course, was my initial attempt in interviewing. I think I could have done a better job of keeping Mrs. Barnett, ah, on an organized or, ah, a train of thought, but, ah, that comes with experience which I don't have. I think she was more experienced at interviewing than I was.

LB: And, ah, I believe that Mrs. Barnett really is into this idea of Christianity. Ah, I think that the Bible is her staff. She lives by this sort of thing, and she is still an active member of the community at this, ah, great age. This is the sort of thing that I think will still use to also devote her life to something. It didn't have to be the church, doesn't have to be, ah, any sort of religious ideas, but it could be a goal, and , ah, I think Huntington should be very proud of Mrs. Barnett because I think as one of its premiere citizens, ah, we do owe her a lot, I mean, us in Huntington, ah, we in Huntington, excuse me, are you know the ideal of the whole tristate, and we should really salute this woman for not only her ideas and her integrity but also for the fact that she is also a very frank and open woman. And, ah, I was very surprised at how much she did remember. And, I was also very pleased of the fact that, ah, at her charm and her wit, and she still has a sense of humor.

JC: Regarding the documents in the possession of Mrs. Barnett, ah, we found upon inquiry that her son is in possession of the majority of her documents. However, she did have some documents, but they were on the second floor; the interview was conducted on the first, and we were very hesitant because of Mrs. Barnett's, ah, age and physical state to have Mrs. Barnett to walk up and down the stairs so we made arrangements to, ah, see her next week or the week after and she said, she was very kind and very generous and very gracious in asking us back for, ah, a second interview or just, ah, just a short, pleasant cordial visit.