

Marshall University

## Marshall Digital Scholar

---

0064: Marshall University Oral History  
Collection

Digitized Manuscript Collections

---

1989

### Oral History Interview: Carroll Hale

Carroll Hale

Follow this and additional works at: [https://mds.marshall.edu/oral\\_history](https://mds.marshall.edu/oral_history)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Marshall University Special Collections, OH64-471, Huntington, WV.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Manuscript Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in 0064: Marshall University Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [zhangj@marshall.edu](mailto:zhangj@marshall.edu).



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

WVACB.7

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701

JAMES E. MORROW LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATES

#7

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Charles Lee, the undersigned, of  
Woodville, County of Lincoln, State  
of W.V., grant, convey, and transfer to the James E.  
Morrow Library Associates, a division of The Marshall University Foundation,  
Inc., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right, title,  
interest, and literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on  
9-8, 1989, to be used for scholarly purposes, including  
study and rights to reproduction.

- initial <sup>CH</sup> Open and usable after ~~my~~ review.
- initial Closed for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- initial Closed for my lifetime.
- initial Closed for my lifetime unless special permission is gained from me or my assigns.

Date 9-8-89  
9-12-89  
9-19-89

Charles Lee  
(Signature - Interviewee)  
Woodville, W.V.  
Address

WVACB.7  
Lee, Charles

Date 9/8/89

Maria R. P... ..  
(Signature - Witness)

WEST VIRGINIA APPALACHIAN CAREGIVERS

WVACG 7

AN INTERVIEW WITH: Ms. Carroll Hale

CONDUCTED BY: Diana Parnicza

DATES OF INTERVIEW: September 8, 1989  
September 12, 1989  
September 19, 1989

TRANSCRIPTIONIST/TYPIST: Gina Kehali Kates

DP: This is Diana Parnicza and I'm interviewing Appalachian Caregivers. This is September 8, 1989, and this is Interview A with Caregiver Number seven.

DP: I've got this taped. Um, okay. What is your age? How old are you

CG: Fifty.

DP: And are you married or divorced or widowed?

CG: Divorced.

DP: And do you have a religion, a certain religion?

CG: Baptist.

DP: And this is your mother?

CG: Yes.

DP: Do you work anywhere?

CG: No.

DP: Have you ever worked anywhere?

CG: Yes.

DP: In a department store or what kind of employment

CG: As an R.N.

DP: Oh, you are an R. N.

CG: Not any more. [laughs]

DP: I didn't know that. Okay. Uh, so, you've gone to nursing scho  
Did you get your associate, baccalaureate or...

CG: No, it was a three-year ...graduate course.

DP: Okay, LPN or diploma?

CG: Diploma.

DP: Did you work in a hospital or...

CG: Yes.

DP: Now, I'm going to ask you about your income. Any of these

questions, if you don't want to answer, you know you don't have to but could you give me like a range, a monthly range of how much money comes in a year, range about how much is it, a thousand a month or...

CG: That would be close.

DP: Okay.

CG: I really can't say for sure right now without checking. I'm not very good with numbers.

DP: Have you just quit working? Are you getting retirement or anything?

CG: No.

DP: Okay. Do you have any health problems? Do you have a problem with high blood pressure, or diabetes or anything?

CG: No.

DP: Now who lives in this house?

CG: Myself and my mother.

DP: You mentioned your son; he doesn't live here?

CG: No.

DP: Okay. And you have a car and you can drive?

CG: Yes.

DP: I've met a lot of women who do not drive...that's true. And you've got running water and electricity. Okay. Now, you said you've moved back and lived with your mother for fifteen years right? But she's just gotten sick July of '89.

CG: Right.

DP: When you had to start watching her and taking care of her, did you move back here 15 years ago because she was sick or was that a reason why you moved back here?

CG: I didn't know you were going to ask this. There were a lot of problems.

DP: Okay, okay, but it wasn't...you...you didn't move here with her because of her sickness?

CG: No, I've been living here since my retarded sister died this summer.

DP: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. So you basically moved in to take care of her then. Oh, that must have been awful. You sister then your mother. Oh, goodness. Okay. I bet that's the biggest thing now, your mother and sister and adjusting to that. How's your mother doing? Is she doing okay?

CG: [inaudible]

DP: Okay, um, if you had to put in hours how many hours you spend taking care of your mother, how many hours do you estimate?

CG: It's different times each day

DP: 5-6 hours?

CG: No, not that long

DP: This has been hard for some people to answer. Some answers 24 hours, because they say they're constantly on their mind and worry about them.

CG: Well, that's true, too, but... I don't take that into consideration. I don't leave her alone. She's at the point when I go she can go with me. I kinda schedule my outside activities for when she feels like going.

DP: Okay, okay. That's all I have to ask today. Now, when I come

back at the next visit, this is the questionnaire that I asked you  
and that's looking at physical and emotional help. And having  
describe them all each day to me, things like that...okay? And lik  
if you don't know. . . [end of Interview A]

you do these things?

CG: Nobody came and helped me do those things with my mother, but there were a couple of people who would come in and stay with her while I was at the store.

DP: Okay. You had people to sit with her. Were they neighbors or friends or family or....

CG: Of course, they would help her to the bathroom.

DP: While they were sitting? (Uh-hmm). Basically then you took care of all the housework, the laundry, yard work and stuff?

CG: No, I don't take care of the yard work. My family does that---not me; other than myself I do some but...

DP: Okay. And the housework, laundry, fixing the meals, going to the grocery store, going to the store to get supplies or whatever, uh, and then taking all the care of your mother basically you did everything and you'd have family members that would come in and maybe sit with her so that you could go to the store. Were there nurses that came in? (yes, they did) What did they do?

CG: Well, I think mainly it...was to check on the progress of the infection...they changed the dressing.

DP: How often did they come?

CG: Um...let's see. Once a week, un-hmm.

DP: Did that Friday make two visits?

CG: I can't remember.

DP: Okay. Let's see, can you think of anybody else, church, family, neighbors, anybody else that came here to help you with your mother. When she was sick.



DP: This is September the 12th, 1989, and I am conducting Interview B with Caregiver #7. Well, I was thinking about that so what I'm thinking is if you can think back to when...she first got sick and started getting sick, and think about all the help you had then, let's see, this is your's and this is your copy, and then that'll kind of...then I can get some idea that way if you all help me and if you even had help I'm finding some people who really don't have a whole lot of help. Okay, now, the first question I'm going to ask you is just a very broad open-ended question and answer it however you think. How do you manage caring for your mother, or how do you manage caring for your mother?

CG: How did I manage? I just did it; I mean...

DP: Okay. What kind of...what kind of like, physical help?

CG: When she first came home from the hospital? What kind of physical help? Well, she had to have help getting out of the bed, she had to have help with her food, going to the bathroom. At that time, it was a sponge bath, she had to be bathed.

DP: Did she have any dressings?

CG: Yes, she had the incision in the hospital and it was open and (she has a colostomy?) Right.

DP: Did you have to irrigate that and care for that too? Even now?

CG: Oh, yes. I don't irrigate it. The uh, nurse at the hospital said there was no need for it. I know the nurses that came here thought maybe I should be, but she said there's no need for it..

DP: Okay. Now, who outside besides you would come in and help

CG: Oh, one of my neighbors drops in occasionally to see if there is anything she can do to help.

DP: Okay. What about emotional help? With your mother being sick and then this added thing with your sister, um, what is out there that helped you emotionally if anything, a person or a thing or what would you...

CG: Staying busy.

DP: Okay. So basically, with yourself and helping emotionally you just stayed busy and tried to make it through by yourself.

CG: Um-hmm.

DP: Do you have any hobbies or anything that would help you take your mind off things or anybody to talk to or anything?

CG: There are things I like to do but at this period, she needed me.

DP: So have you ever had to have someone come in to help that you had to pay?

DP: Okay. With your family, who would come in and sit, would they volunteer or would you have to ask to come and help you?

CG: Oh, of course, they didn't volunteer. I had to tell them to come.

DP: Okay. We talked about this last week, families have said they really haven't volunteered and they hesitate to ask...and like you said before, try and do it all yourself.

Um, okay. How has your life changed since your mother's been s

CG: Just I'm confined here.

DP: I find a lot of women say this too. When they do go out to the gr

or leave the house and do something they say constantly in the back of their mind. They're still worried about their mother or husband or someone there, like they have to go do what they got to and come right back.

CG: O feel like that, too. You feel...you're imposing if you overstay. I don't stay too long because I might want to go again.

DP: Almost like a child with a babysitter. Okay. If you...this I'm askin you to rank the help that they received with what's the most important down to the least important um, that you really haven't had a lot of help you've done it most yourself but was there any person or anything that was done to help you while your mother was sick, that stands out in your mind as important?

CG: You mean insofar as helping me?

DP: Um-hmm. Um, you think maybe the fact that you're an RN that background and that knowledge do you think that has helped?

CG: Oh, of course it helps. I haven't worked for years and years and years and I know everything's changed, you know.

DP: But still you've seen a wound you know, and the basic care. Was there any time when you wished you had had some kind of help but it wasn't available to you or you didn't know how to get it? Okay. You're pretty much satisfied with you doing everything and having the people call? Okay. With the help you did have um, was there any thing that you would have chnaged? Was there any that was more of a nuisance than a help or or...(no). And if you do this one more thing for me.

When your mother was sick, like when she first came back from the hospital, tell me, describe an average day from the time that you got up to the time you went to bed pretty much what all happens, what all did you have to do?

CG: When I was taking care of her?

DP: Un-huh.

CG: Just an average day? I usually got up at eight (okay) made breakfast, bath, dressing change, care for the colostomy, generally that was done by 11:00 (okay) and then it was time for lunch and there was trips to the bathroom. She generally lied down after the bath (okay) till lunch time. Where are we? (afternoon) Afternoon and then my housework, laundry, whatever I had to do, supper and dressing change, colostomy, and usually try to get dinner and then she goes to bed around 9:00.

DP: The whole day is around the patient. The caregiver doesn't have time to herself. That is what I'm finding, which is typical or not surprising to me. Um, let me see if there is anything else. I can't think of anything. Can you think of anything else to add or anything ... okay. Um...

DP: This is September 19 and I am doing Interview C with caregiver number seven. Okay. Like I said, this will be the last visit and what I want to do with this is just kinda summarize everything and make sure I've got things right, because I'm finding out I've missed things or I've got them incorrect or something, so, okay, let me start with you. You um, you're taking care of your mother who had to have surgery this summer and had a diagnosis that means you're going have to be staying with her for awhile but you have lived with your mother previously. In coming back to take care of personal reasons because you had a sister, a retarded sister that you would help take care of so you've been here with your mother for fifteen years.

CG: Right.

DP: You are a professional; you've gone to college after high school and um, you can drive and get around um, you have no health problems right now. Um, not only did your mother have to have surgery this summer, but your sister died. So you've been through a very traumatic time this summer with your mother's diagnosis and your sister so um, that's pretty much where you're coming from now, as far as caring for your mother. You're not ...it's changed...she's gotten better so it's not the same as when she came home from the hospital so let's weave it back to see what kind of care you received and help that you got when your mother first came back from the hospital and basically you did everything um, you had family members who volunteered to come and stay with your

mother while you ran and did other things but you're in charge of the house, keeping it up, cleaning it you were in charge of the physical care of your mother, helping her wash and all her hygiene, care of her dressings, feeding her and all those things. There was a nurse, nurses that came three, four times and they checked on her room and helped with the dressings, um, but as far as neighbors and the church or anybody else, it was basically you, and you did have family and you did have a nurse, is that right?

CG: Right.

DP: Now, as far as how you feel about the help you received, but didn't receive, you feel pretty comfortable with it. You didn't see anything ...you'd really like to change except from one area and that was before your mother left the hospital, you said you got no teaching at all about her wound care so that um, and that would've helped. As far as your life has changed, you are more confined, you were more confined when your mother was sick, and you still are and every though you had help to stay with your mother, um, there was constantly worry in the back of your mind of the worry of your mother, but just of the fact that your mother was home with someone different plus imposing on them and their time.

CG: Not so much as worrying about her welfare.

DP: But just imposing on their time is basically it?

CG: Yes.

DP: Um, and when you described your average day, it pretty much revolved around your mother when she got up, when she wanted

to eat, the physical care that she needed, you had sometime in the afternoon, but you were basically doing housework and catching up on things like that and then also you had time late at night after your mother went to bed for yourself but that was basically it. And as far as um, things that you do for yourself, um, it's pretty much revolved around your mother and her schedule. Um, does that pretty much cover everything? I was going to ask you this. Have you thought about the future...have you been thinking about if your mother becomes worse or I don't know what her prognosis is. I don't know if it's good or bad. Have you been so overwhelmed and everything that you haven't given thought to that at all?

CG: Well, as far as her prognosis, no, I haven't given much thought to it. I just do what has to be done.

DP: Pretty much take it a day at a time.

CG: Right.

DP: Okay. I can't think of anything else. I may call you if I have a question but so far I'm just now getting everything organized. But so far I haven't needed to um, be there to get back in contact with anybody. I may forget about that, or something, but I do appreciate the time that you spent.

[end of interview]