2001

Oral History Interview: Pearl Swann Carter

Pearl Swann Carter

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October 2, 2001
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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS WITH

MRS. PEARL SWANN CARTER

October 1 and 2, 2001

White Sulpher Springs, West Virginia

Interviewers: Rita Wicks-Nelson, Ph.D. and Ancella Radford Bickley, Ed.D.

Transcriptionist: Ms. Gina Kehalia Kates

AB: Today is October 1st, 2001. Rita Wicks-Nelson and Ancella Bickley are at the home of Mrs. Pearl Swann Carter in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, talking with Mrs. Carter. We may stop from time to time to check to be sure we're getting everything.

RW-N: Okay. So would you like to start by stating. . .

PC: My name?

RW-N: . . .your full name, even though it's on [this recording already], and giving us your full address and your birth date.

PC: Okay. Are we ready?

RW-N: Yes, we're ready. Yes.

PC: Okay. My name is Pearl Swann Carter. This is 38 Church Street in White Sulphur Springs. I just had a birthday not too long ago, and I'm eighty-two years old.

RW-N: So that's. . . so what is the actual date of your birth?

PC: August 24th of 19 . . .1919.

AB: Let me stop for a minute and make sure . . . .[tape being turned off/on]

RW-N: Okay. And you were born where?

PC: I was born in Caldwell. You came through there and you went through so fast you didn't know it. (AB: chuckle)

RW-N: Would you spell that for us?

PC: C-a-l-d-w-e-l-l. It's six miles from here. I was born across the tracks, of course. And then when I was, I guess, a month old, we moved here.

AB: And where were your parents from?

PC: My father was from Leesburg, Virginia. That's down in horse country. His father was a slave who was given to his mistress for a wedding gift. He was twelve. And she treated him just

as if he were her boy; little Jimmy, she called him. Taught him to read; he spoke perfectly.

AB: Was what your father's name?

PC: My father's name was James Nelson, Junior. His father of course was a senior, but neither one used the title. So it was not until my brother James was born, that he, he became James Nelson the III. So we actually have five, had five, James Nelsons.

AB: And what was the name of the family that owned your father?

PC: They were Dunlaps. Now I had tried my best to find where the Swann came from. We have no idea. We have asked people we've met in Virginia, in and around Leesburg, but nobody seems to know. And we think that his father was probably sold around Baltimore, because one of my cousins said that Lord Baltimore had actually sired him. And uh so, they think that his name was also Nelson. So we, we just assume that that's where the Nelson came from. I'm not sure about the James.

RW-N: Now, who. . .who are you telling about now? Who might have been sired by. . .?

PC: My grandfather.

RW-N: Your grandfather.

PC: My father's father.

RW-N: Okay.

AB: So your father's father was James Nelson Swann? (PC: Yes) And your father was James Nelson Swann. (PC: Yes) But neither of them used the junior or senior?

PC: No. It was only when my brother was born that he became James Nelson the III. (RW-N: mmm) He actually was. (AB: uh huh) And then he had a son who was James Nelson the IV, and he has a son who is James Nelson the V.

AB: So you had five generations of James Nelson Swanns?

PC: Five generations of James Nelson Swanns. Yes. (chuckle)

AB: And what about your mother?

RW-N: Could I, could I interrupt just for one minute? I was curious about your saying, if I understand this correctly, that your father had been a slave.

PC: No, my grandfather.

RW-N: Your grandfather, okay. That's right. And it was your grandfather who you said was only twelve (PC: Yes) when he was given to his mistress?

PC: Yes, as a wedding gift.

RW-N: And that she taught him to read?

PC: To read. Now that was against the law.

RW-N: Yeah, that's what I wanted to ask you about.

PC: Yeah, that was against the law. She taught him to cook; (RW-N: mmm)] he could sew; he made ginger ale, root beer, delicious doughnuts.

AB: Did you know him?

PC: Yes! Yes, I did. I think. . . well, I can't remember how old I was because his wife died first. I was nine when my grandmother died. But I think my son was a year old when grandfather died. (RW-N: Mmh, okay.) He's now fifty-six. (laughs softly)

RW-N: And what about your grandmother?

PC: My grandmother was. . . I can't remember which tribe, but she was an Indian.

AB: Full blood?

PC: Probably. You know, we don't know for sure, but her name was Green. And that's not an

Indian name. Her name was Elizabeth Green.

RW-N: Now, now this was your grandmother, this was James's wife we're talking about, right?

PC: Wife, right.

RW-N: And you did not know her very much?

PC: Yes, I knew her, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: Oh, you did.

AB: Do you have pictures of them?

PC: Only of my father. I don't have any picture of her. But I have a sister who looks just like her. A small face, thin hair, thin-, pulled back. But I don't have a single picture. I don't know if there is one.

RW-N: And were they the folks who first moved here?

PC: Now they did not move here. My father came here (RW-N: Okay. Okay) to the Old White. The Greenbrier was at that time the Old White. (RW-N: Ohh, right) And he came, uh, west (soft laugh) to find employment. And rode the train, of course. It's really strange how people up that way call this "out west."

AB: Right. (chuckle)

PC: We lived out west? [in an amused way]

RW-N: Yes, that is interesting.

AB: Were your parents married, uh, before your father came to West Virginia?

PC: No, no, no. He didn't know anybody here. He just, they just caught the train in Washington and came here.

AB: And met your mother here?

PC: Yes.

AB: And where in, where was she from?

PC: She. . . mmh, that's a long story, probably. You know, she-, my mother didn't talk much so we don't know the details of her childhood and all that. But her mother lived—and I can't say owned because I think slavery was over at that time—at a place down Harts Run. It's overgrown now and you can't find it up there on the hill. It was called the uh. . . isn't that awful... I'll think of it in a minute.

AB: Okay. But she-, her family was already here (PC: Yes) when your father came?

PC: When he moved here.

AB: And they met after that?

PC: They met after that, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: Is Harts spelled H-a-r-t-s? (PC: Uh-huh)

AB: And did your mother have brothers and sisters?

PC: Yes, uh-huh. She had a fairly large number, but several of them died during the scarlet fever epidemic. Was it typhoid or scarlet fever? Maybe it was typhoid.

AB: And did you know your grandparents on that side of the family?

PC: No, no.

AB: Do we assume that they were enslaved here?

PC: I, I'm not sure whether or not my grandmother was a slave or whether it was sort of like the indentured thing, you know, because I have no idea when she was born or where or anything. But she did live there. Wish I could think of the name of the place. It's right across from Wendy's. And it sits up on the hill but as I said it's so overgrown you can barely find it. She

lived there. And then she lived in what was called the Meadows, which is on this side of the bridge when you've gone through Caldwell. Okay, so. . .

RW-N: Now this was your mother's mother?

PC: This was my mother's mother.

RW-N: And what do you know about your mother's father?

PC: Very little. And as I said, my mother didn't tell us anything. She did not look at all like her sisters and brothers. So we just sort of think that that's a separate item, you know.

AB: That she probably didn't want to talk about.

PC: Right. But she, she was very secretive, you know. And I guess somehow we knew, you just don't ask questions, you know. But uh, the, my grandmother's husband's name was Napoleon Bonaparte Chambers.

RW-N: Chambers? (PC: Mmm-hmm) C-h-a-m-b-e-r-s?

PC: ...b-e-r-s, uh-huh. We never knew him as our grandfather or anything. We were in Caldwell on one Sunday and I said, "Who is that?" And one of my cousins said, "That's Uncle Boney." Uncle Boney doesn't sound like grandfather, you know. And that's all I never knew. But my aunts called him, "Daddy."

AB: The same man?

PC: The same man. Very, very handsome man, very dark, white hair that was beautiful. But that was all I remember ever seeing of him. Now I think he was from up Williamsburg; I'm not sure. I don't know that much about that side.

AB: Do you know how old your father was when he came here?

PC: No, but I'm sure he was a young man. (AB: mmm-hmmm)

RW-N: Do you know his birth date?

PC: September 5th. . . uh, no, my sisters can tell you that. (AB: chuckle)

AB: When. . .when your father came to work at the Greenbrier, where did he live? Did they live…

PC: They had a quarters. . . they had quarters for the employees. And they lived, they stayed there. They were housed and fed.

AB: Is this your family Bible?

PC: I think it belongs to my sister and I don't know what's in there. Maybe you'll have to look in the back. And uh . . .so he became a bellman when he, when he came. You don't see any dates in there anywhere?

AB: Uh, uh. Uh, do you know at what point he met your mother?

PC: Oh, probably a couple of years after he came. I'm not sure. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: And did she work there, too?

PC: No. She. . . you know, it's hard to say worked way back then. Because as I said, I don't know how much was ownership or what. But she and her sisters, two or three of them, worked at—I guess they worked—at Elmhurst Farm, which again as I said, it's just on this side of the bridge, the second bridge in Caldwell.

RW-N: She and her sisters worked there?

PC: At Elmhurst.

RW-N: And that's E-l-m-h-u-r-s-t?

PC: Mmm-hmm, u-r-s-t.

RW-N: And what kind of work did they do there?

PC: They, I guess they cooked and cleaned. Because I guess even then it was kind of-, this was before Bed and Breakfasts, but I'm sure it was that type of thing. And there was a lot of construction going on at that time. And people stayed and they had to have somewhere to eat. And it was probably that kind of thing. You know, you wish you had asked your parents more, after they go. And every day I think, "Boy, I wish I could ask Mother that." Or "I wish I could tell her that." But you just miss so much. It would have been hard to get too much out of her, I think. (laughing)

AB: So did your father spend his whole working life at the Greenbrier?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm.

AB: And what about your mother? After they married, did she work after that?

PC: No, never.

AB: She never worked. (PC: Never, no) She didn't do. . . What about things like taking in washing or anything like? Did she do anything like that?

PC: No. She didn't do anything. No.

AB: And is this house that you're in, is this the family home by any chance?

PC: No. You know, we never owned a home. And I attribute that to the fact that in those days bellmen made money fast and it was assumed, I guess, that it would go on forever or "We'll buy a home next year," you know, "We'll get one in a couple of years." So we never owned a home. (AB: Mmm-hmm) We lived on what is now Swann Lane; it's named after my father.

AB: Here in White Sulphur?

PC: In White Sulphur, mmm-hmm.

AB: Was that an all black area?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm. Yes, I could say it was all black, because whites lived at that end of our street facing another street. But other than that, everybody was black.

AB: How big was the black population of White Sulphur at that time?

PC: Oh, that's a good question! Maybe five hundred. Most of 'em at the Greenbrier. Most of the people here had come from other places, just as my father did, you know. A lot of people from North Carolina and a lot of people from Virginia, Richmond and places like that.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Do you know how your parents met?

PC: No, I don't. No, I have no idea. Isn't that funny?

AB: Now was there a church here in, in White Sulphur Springs at that time? A black church?

PC: Across the track. And I can barely remember . . .I think neighbors must have taken me.

AB: What kind of church was it?

PC: I think there was a Methodist and a Baptist. I'm not sure, but I think so. And we would have to go past these, excuse me, boxcars that were usually filled with hobos. That was really a time of hobos. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And they would just scare us to death, you know, 'cause they'd be fresh and I was too little to get fresh with. (PC and AB: chuckle) But I remember that quite well.

AB: Hmm-mmm. Were they black or white?

PC: They were both. (AB: Uh-huh) And so I remember going over there to Sunday School. But then somebody told me that our church, this is the church I grew up in—I now belong to Emmanuel downtown—that it was built, one of the two, in 1921. Well, that's just two years after I was born, so. . . .

RW-N: And this church is which church?

PC: This is St. James Methodist, United Methodist. That's First Baptist down at the other end. And when I was growing up we went to both. There were not enough people to fill either, either of the two, so we went to the Methodist church for [unclear], to the Baptist church for Sunday School. And then if we were lucky, we'd go to church at night. At least that was a way out. (PC and AB laugh) Couldn't go anywhere else on Sunday.

AB: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

PC: There were seven of us. And all living, except one brother.

AB: How many girls, how many boys?

PC: (laughs) Two boys.

AB: Two boys, five girls. (PC: two boys, five girls) And where did you fall in that?

PC: I'm the oldest.

AB: You're the oldest. You're the first child.

PC: First child, yeah.

RW-N: And you say, today, all of you are living except one?

PC: Except one, except James.

RW-N: So the youngest, your youngest brother or sister is about what age? (PC: chuckle) Okay, never mind, not, not important. (PC: [laughs] It really shakes me to think of it.) Not important.

PC: Uh, sixty-something, I think; I'm sure. She was-, when she was born, I was a sophomore in college. [PC is referring to her youngest sister.]

RW-N: Oh, okay, that's what I was trying to find out; whether the family was stretched out.

PC: Then the sister next to her is just two years older, something like that.

AB: And do any of them live here in White Sulphur?

PC: Mmmh, the youngest does.

AB: The youngest. And the others, are the others in West Virginia or out of the state?

PC: Well, the one next to me lives in Cleveland and the uh, then the two boys came in. Jimmy, the dead-, the one who's dead, and my brother John lives here. Okay. And then there's Ann, she lives here. And then the other two.

RW-N: So you have lots of company, with brothers and sisters?

PC: Yes, I do. Yes.

RW-N: Do you have contact with them?

PC: But they're-, oh, yes, heavens, my brother comes to check on me often. And uh, my sister did live in Charleston. Did you know any Campbells in Charleston?

AB: No, I didn't.

PC: Didn't know undertaker Hubert? [Spelling?] (AB: No) Never heard of him?

AB: Uh, uh. Cause, you see, I'm from Huntington originally. (PC: Oh, okay) And so I haven't been in Charleston for a long time. I don't know the older people there. (PC: Okay) Uh, what was. . . you all were living in rented property when you were growing up. (PC: Yes) Was that a big house, small house?

PC: Small.

AB: Small.

PC: Small, very small.

AB: Did you live in the same house or did you move about?

PC: We lived in the same house, except that once, the man who owned the house thought he was gonna move back here. He went to D.C. for work, so he was a bellman up there. And so we

moved, either, either next door or here for just a short time, you know, two or three months or whatever. Then we moved back. (AB: Into the same house?) Into the same house.

AB: And how big was that house? How many rooms did you have?

PC: Do I have to tell you? (All laughing) There was actually one bedroom. And after I started teaching, then I converted to a living room and a bedroom. But all of us grew up in those-, in the one bedroom, you know, because when people came to visit, or my mother had a club meeting, there was a bed in there and a couple of chairs. People sat on the bed and sat in the chairs. So my first assignment–nobody asked me to do it–but was to get that bed out of there and get a couch. (laughter) So it started looking like a living room. But we had huge beds, of course. You know, the boys slept in one and we slept in the other. And had the nerve to invite people from school to go home with us in the summer. (AB: laughs) You know, "You want to spend the summer with us?" One girl did; her mother was a chiropractor in St. Louis. And she spent the summer between summer school and fall session. But we were always bringing somebody home. I said, "...wouldn't have the nerve." (PC and AB laugh)

AB: Well, your parents must have been very warm and loving (PC: They were. . .) to permit you to. . . (PC: . . .they were) do that.

PC: They were. They loved people. Very outgoing.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Did your. . .your father made a pretty good living then as a bellman?

PC: Yes, he did. But as I said, at that time, money didn't seem to have much value. It was just taken for granted. Because we never owned anything. We did own a couple of cars, I remember. One was so tall we could stand up.

AB: At that time, could he bring food from the Greenbrier, leftovers and what-not?

PC: Yes, yes. And I was telling somebody the other day that actually, we had hot lunch long before the term became known. The Greenbrier sent hot lunch to our school, Bethune. Oh, delicious—soups and stew and all the leftover corn muffins and danish.

RW-N: So that was leftover food that they were sending?

PC: Yes, yes. Delicious. (RW-N: Yes, interesting.)

AB: So where was your first school?

PC: My first school was on the hill. It was Bethune.

AB: Bethune, that wasn't named for Mary McCleod Bethune?

PC: Yes!

AB: Oh, really?

PC: Yes, it was, yes!

AB: And what year would that have been? You would have started school, what, about 1926, '25 or '26?

PC: 1925, or something like that. And Bethune was fairly new. Or maybe very new when I started there. (AB: Mmm-hmm) Because there was a little one-room school that had been there before Bethune was built, maybe one or two rooms, I don't know.

RW-N: Are those buildings still there?

PC: Bethune is, but it's a private residence. Somebody bought it.

RW-N: Where is that? (PC: It's a, you go…) Like could we see it, I mean…?

PC: Sure. You can see it-, you can go around this . . .(RW-N: Go up Church Street?) Mmm-hmm, and keep around the little hill there. (RW-N: Toward the left?) Mmm-hmm. (R-WN: And. . .)

PC: And you'll see it sitting up on top the hill.

RW-N: On the hill.

AB: Is it a brick building or a frame building?

PC: No, it's a frame building.

AB: A frame building.

RW-N: But it's on the hill. And it would be on the right, then?

PC: It's on the left.

RW-N: It's on the left as we go, uh-huh.

PC: ...stay left on...

AB: Now was that a one-room school?

PC: No, that was three.

AB: You mean you all had that many people that you could have three rooms?

PC: We must have; I can't imagine. But we did, we had three rooms.

AB: And who was your teacher?

PC: The principal was Charles S. Arter from Harpers Ferry.

RW-N: Would you spell that?

PC: Arter, A-r-t-e-r. Okay. Very proud man.

AB: Did you know Perry?

PC: Of course. (laughs) (AB: Perry Arters?) Everybody knew Perry Arter. They were cousins. (AB: Uh-huh) And uh, Perry, he was something else. Beautiful voice. Now they both went to Bluefield State. (AB: Mmm-hmmm) And he had-, but he went to Harpers Ferry, of course, (AB: Yes.) first, which was Storer, Storer (AB: Storer, right.)

RW-N: Who are we talking about now?

AB: The principal of her school was a man whose name was Arter. (RW-N: Right) He had a cousin whose name was Perry Arter. And that name is one [known] through here in educational circles here in West Virginia. Perry Arters taught school over at Weston. (PC: Did he?) Mmm-hmm, he was at the Weston Colored School (PC: okay) for a time. And so Mr. Arters was your teacher? (PC: Mmm-hmm) First grade through what?

[Note: There appears to be inconsistency in the tapes regarding the pronunciation of this family name. Mrs. Carter knows the name as Arter, not as Arters.]

PC: No, no, the school was first through eight, (AB: Mmm-hmm) but he had I think six, seven, eight.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Who was the first grade teacher? Who was the first teacher that you remember?

PC: Rosa Leftwich, who died several years ago. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: Leftwich?

PC: Leftwich, L-e-f-t-w-i-c-h.

AB: Was she from White Sulphur?

PC: Lowmoor, Virginia. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And the other one was Evelyn Newsome at that time. She's now Evelyn Booze and in a nursing home out here.

AB: Newsome is N-e-w-s-o-m-e? (PC: . . . s-o-m-e) And Booze is how?

PC: That's her married name, B-o-o-z-e, Booze.

RW-N: And everyone in that school was black?

PC: Yes, everybody; distinctly separate. (chuckle)

AB: So there were three teachers? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And who was the principal?

PC: He was, Mr. Arter.

AB: Mr. Arters was the principal. And he taught six, seven, and eight. (PC: and eight, mmm-hmm) And how long-, that school was new when you went into it, you said, probably about 1925?

PC: Something like that.

AB: And how long did that school exist?

PC: Well, my son went to school there, in. . .probably through sixth grade. So he's, if he's fifty-six, that was probably fifty years ago when it (AB: went out of business) went out of business, because it was after integration. And uh, he only started junior high in the integrated system. So I guess that would be. . .

AB: Did you all have a graduation uh, from school down there?

PC: From Bethune? (chuckle) I can remember something; I guess they called it graduation. But we had it down in the neighborhood where we lived. There was a dance hall down there, and it belonged to a family called Clarks. And that's where we had the whatever-it-was, the program, 'cause I can remember standing there in my organdy dress. Did you ever have anything organdy? And you know how it curls? (chuckles) And my father had it made in Caldwell with this great big cape, the big cape collar. And while I was standing it just curled on up, right around my neck. (all chuckling) So I was so embarrassed I wouldn't recite until my dad came up and held me by the hand. But that, that was down there, not at the school.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Did you all have Christmas programs and Easter programs and things like that, either at your church or at the school?

PC: Oh, at the church, yes. (AB: But not at the school?) We screamed every year when Santa came it.

AB: But not at the school?

PC: I don't think so. I don't remember anything like that at school. All kinds of patriotic programs. Mr. Arter was very patriotic. And we learned the Negro National Anthem way back then. (Mmm-hmm) And he played the piano like this, you know. (chuckles)

RW-N: Do you still know that?

PC: Yes! Yes, I do.

AB: You had a piano in your school?

PC: Yes! Yes, we did.

AB: Did you have a library, books, or so in your school? (PC: No) Where did you. . .

PC: We bought our books. We were so proud, standing in line with our little book list. (chuckles)

AB: Where did you get them?

PC: At the bookstore, which was downtown . . .among all those closed shops and. . .

RW-N: Did all the students buy their books?

PC: Yes, they had to.

AB: Black and white?

PC: Yes, yeah.

RW-N: And were your books used books?

PC: No! (RW-N: Cause, I-, that's unusual. . .) No, we only saw used books when they, when they became free. You know, our books were always new. And we were so proud. A lot of

families would pass those down. (RW-N: Yes) And they were the only used books we ever saw. But our books were new.

RW-N: I never remember hearing that from any of the other women, do you? (AB: No) No, it's the first time I've heard that. And you actually went to a store here in town, (PC: Yes) waited on line and got your books?

PC: And I remember, I was always short for my age, and this guy in front of me said, uh, "What grade are you in?" And I said, "Fourth." And he said, "I don't believe it. Can you spell pneumonia?" and I said, "I surely can. N-e-w-. . ." He said, "Yep, you're in fourth grade!" (all laugh) Oh, boy.

AB: And there were several of you in your family in school at the same time? (PC: Yes) And what did you. . . you got lunch you said, the Greenbrier would send lunch over to the school. (PC: Mmm-hmm) Did they do that every day? (PC: Yes) So you never had to pack a lunch to take to school with you?

PC: Mmh, yes. But I don't know when it started. You know, I don't know how many. . .how long it existed. Because we did pack a lunch after awhile. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: And of course the Greenbrier...saw...that most of those children were the children of their employees, huh?

PC: I'm sure, I'm sure. And somebody suggested the other day, when I mentioned it, maybe it was one of them who said to the Greenbrier, "Couldn't you send this, you know, up to the school where our children are?" (AB: Mmm-hmm) Of course, the food was so good.

AB: Did you ever go to the Greenbrier when your father worked there? I mean (PC:Yes) just to see it?

PC: I went to babysit. You will not believe this. I think I was eleven. I should have been older than that, but eleven sticks in my mind. And uh they called to see if I could come up to babysit. And these folks were from Huntington; their names were Geiger. He was a chemist, I think. They later moved to Baltimore. But anyway, they uh, so, I went up around four and the lady said, Mrs. Geiger said, "Now, you can order room service, and so now get what you want." So I'm thinking-, my daddy used to bring us menus from the Greenbrier and we ordered every day. My brothers would pass 'em around, you know, we'd order: "I'll have this and I'll have that." So I'm thinking—I have all this tucked in my mind—I ordered everything we had planned to get! [laughter] Can you imagine? I ordered lambchops, broiled chicken, chicken salad, fruit salad, another kind of meat, I can't remember what the other meat was, about three deserts, raspberry ice cream I know was one, Greenbrier cookies was another, the Greenbrier peach was another. I wish I could think of the other meat. But I know I had two chickens.

AB: And did you eat all of that?

PC: No! No way. (AB: laughing) And you know, the waiter kept looking at Mrs. Geiger, waiting for her to say, "That's enough!" And I guess she's thinking to herself, "This child is starved. So just let her get, let her whatever she wants." So I'm so dumb, after ordering half of the menu, they had this big round table in there with a glass top, I cleared it off thinking this was where we were gonna eat. Yeah, they brought in the big room service table, with enough food for a family of six. (laughter) So I've been embarrassed for that several times later, but I ordered—well, now let me see. What time is it? Can you tell me what time this thing goes off? [tape being shut off/on] So then, so after that – my father was very proper. Just like his father, perfect grammar and everything. And he was the bell captain. So, at that time trains were

running all day. And he stood in the lobby and announced the trains. "Train Number 54 leaving for this station in five minutes." And I thought, "Wow! That's my daddy. He must own this place." (laughter) So after that it was his hotel. So, ignorance is bliss, isn't it? We just knew it was his. (all laughing) And on top of that, he stayed, he worked such long hours. There was no union, so he left in the morning at six and it was not unusual for him to come in at two, three the next morning, right back at six. So he spent enough time there for it to be his hotel.

AB: And what about your home life then? Did your mother, was she pretty much responsible for the children? Did she discipline you and what-not?

PC: Yes, she did. But she left it most up to my dad. And he didn't like to, but he would, of course.

AB: Did he spank you?

PC: Yes, he hated to, but he did. And she would save it all, she didn't like to either. So she'd say, "Pearl has just shown off here today; I've had a terrible time." And I was blamed for everything since I was the oldest, you know. My sister fell I think and cut one of these arteries and blood gushing everywhere. So I was the one who got spanked. (PC and AB laugh) So she would save most of it for Daddy, you know.

RW-N: So even though he worked long hours, I get the sense that you still had a lot of contact with him. And his presence was. . .

PC: We did; I don't know how, but. . . .

RW-N: . . . that his presence was important in your home.

PC: Yes, yes, it was very.

RW-N: What did you do in your home for, uh, (PC: entertainment?) entertainment? You said before, not much. [laughter]l

PC: Not much, right. But we—my mother would dance with us. We had an old victrola. And one of these, yeah (AB: that you crank). And as I said, no bedroom [PC corrected this to "living room"]. There was no such thing as a closet. So we had this curtain that covered the clothes that were hung under it. And my mother would pretend that she was a Hawaiian hula dancer and she'd come out on stage first and we'd trip out behind her. We had these great shows.

AB: There in your house? (PC: Yes) In the house, mmm-hmm.

PC: This was a little two-by-four. (laughs) But we had such good times. She'd play ball with us.

RW-N: Did you play cards?

PC: Not much. And my mother said when she was young, they played cards all night long. But for some reason we didn't.

RW-N: But it wasn't forbidden?

PC: No, it was not forbidden.

AB: Not for religious reasons or anything?

PC: No, we didn't even look at 'em on Sunday. We couldn't do anything on Sunday but sit there and read the funnies and not talk loud. (RW-N: uh-huh) But other than that. . . .

AB: You went to Sunday School?

PC: Yes.

AB: And then you came home? (PC: Mmm-hmm) Did you have a big dinner when you came home?

PC: No, we didn't eat until late because of my dad.

AB: He got home in time for dinner?

PC: Usually on Sunday he got home in time for dinner.

AB: And what would a typical Sunday dinner be like?

PC: Oh, my goodness, chicken every Sunday.

AB: Fried?

PC: Fried. See, we raised chickens. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And when there were chickens in those days, there were rats. So we could hear the chickens screaming all night. And naturally, that scared us to death.

RW-N: Did you ever have any other kind of animals?

PC: No—dog. We always had a dog.

AB: How did you cook? Did you have coal?

PC: We had a coal stove. That was my other assignment. I bought Mother a gas range.

AB: After you began to work?

PC: After I began teaching with all my $110 a month. (laughs)

AB: So you had coal to heat with, uh, what about uh, light? Did you have. . .

PC: We had electric lights.

AB: You had electric lights. What about hot water for bathing and what-not?

PC: Yeah, we did, but I never understood why. We had a bathroom.

AB: You had a bathroom? Attached to the house?

PC: Yes.

AB: And you had a tub there? Bathtub?

PC: Yes, uh-huh.

AB: And a flush comode?

PC: Yes.

AB: And a face bowl?

PC: I don't think so.

AB: Did you have hot water in that bathtub?

PC: Yes. But we bathed in the living room in the big zinc tub.

AB: Even though you had a bathtub?

PC: Even though we had a bathtub. Isn't that funny? So maybe because there was no heat in there, I don't know why. Mmm-hmm. But we did bathe in that big tub.

AB: So did you have chores then as a child?

PC: Not many.

AB: Your mother took care of the dishes…?

PC: Yeah.

AB: . . .and the sewing?

PC: She didn't sew. She uh, you know, she would pay people. (AB: Mmm-hmm) There was a lady in Caldwell who was an excellent seamstress. And all of our little dresses were handmade with little rosebuds and stuff on it, and all this little smocking. We thought we were rich [unclear words] as you could be.

AB: You were pretty well dressed then?

PC: Yes. We didn't have a lot of clothes, but she bought us good clothes.

AB: The boys, too?

PC: Yes, the boys, too. And nice clothes. So we, we thought we really had something.

AB: What were holidays like at your house?

PC: Fun, especially Halloween. You know, mother, too, then would go out with us. And we were such cowards, we didn't go far from home. Running, if anybody came to the door with a mask on.

AB: So you dressed up with Halloween costumes?

PC: Mmm-hmm. Oh, hand-, homemade, you know, old clothes.

AB: Right. What did you do? Go visit the neighbors or what?

PC: Yes. And Easter was great, because Mother hid our nest outside. And we spent Easter morning looking for those nests.

RW-N: Of eggs? (PC: Yes) Colored eggs? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And how about Christmas?

PC: We had, we thought we had great Christmases. Great.

RW-N: Did you have a Christmas tree?

PC: Oh, yes, yes!

RW-N: Who decorated that?

PC: We did, Mother and the three of us girls, I guess, the five of us girls.

RW-N: Now when you were growing up, because of the difference in age, there was probably more like five children in the family, right?

PC: Mmm-hmm, right. Well, there were four. There were my sister, me, and the two boys. Then there were, there was Ann all by herself, and then there were two girls. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm, yes) So we were sort of in three sections.

RW-N: So when Christmas came, you decorated the tree, you had presents? (PC: Yes) And Santa Claus came? (PC: Yes) And how old were you…?

PC: Well, I was in that big tub one night when Santa Claus came. (PC and AB laugh) Jumped up and hopped in bed, dripping wet! Oh, my goodness. Of course, you know, there was no Santa Claus but there were these footsteps on the, on the porch. I knew it had to be Santa Claus. I flew. But uh, Christmas was big at our house. Though we didn't get a lot of stuff.

RW-N: What did you get? Did you get toys? Did you get food? Did you get clothes?

PC: We got toys, (RW-N: You got toys.). Very few clothes I guess.

RW-N: So you did get toys?

PC: Yeah, the boys would get a wagon or tricycle and we would get a doll or a stocking with raisins in it and hard candy. And a little present here and there. Our relatives in New York, I think, thought we were on welfare, so they would send us a big box that had odd socks and, you know, just one sock of a kind, women's shoes and we were children. We laughed at that too. (Much laughter)

RW-N: Now who were these relatives in New York?

PC: They were my father's family. (RW-N: Uh-huh, yes, okay) He had two or three sisters in New York. (RW-N: Okay) And then so did my husband have sisters in New York when my children were. . . . They did just about the same thing. (laughs)

AB: You spoke earlier of the place where they had the school exercise. Ah, you said that they had parties there. (PC: Mmm-hmm) Uh, what was the entertainment like here in White Sulphur, out in the community?

PC: Well, there were things like debates. Everybody loved a debate.

RW-N: Who would hold that?

PC: The churches. I assume.

AB: And who would debate?

PC: People within the neighborhood, in the town, would debate. There were some very eloquent speakers. And uh, they would debate. They were always exciting.

AB: And those were held at. . . what was the name of this place?

PC: Most of—even the church, churches, or at the-, at Clark's Hall.

AB: At Clark's Hall.

PC: Mmm-hmm.

AB: And the Clarks were black people that had this hall that they rented out, I guress? (PC: Right) Uh, were there dances and things like that?

PC: Oh, yes, big bands! (AB: Really?) Yes. I don't mean Louis Armstrong (AB: Right) but, most of the bands were from Richmond or they came up from the south. And uh, some West Virginia bands. Bands from State. [It is likely that this refers to WV State College, which had a black student body at the time.] Good entertainment.

RW-N: Now, in-, at these affairs, were there only black people (PC: Yes) or was it mixed?

PC: No mixed audiences then.

AB: Did Silas Green come here?

PC: Oh, Heavens, yes. (PC and RW-N laughing) I was scared to death of it. (AB: Why?) Because they always shot for some reason. And you know, that first gun shot was enough for me. I just felt like the dead then. [PC later explained that she thought she had been shot.]

RW-N: What did they do? They shot a gun?

PC: They could pay me not to go. But later on when I grew up, the people in our neighborhood who, who—he was the head bellman—knew the Silas Green people, the-, I guess, owners. And

they came there for lunch. So that was really something.

AB: They went to the Greenbrier for lunch?

PC: No, they went to our neighbors for lunch.

AB: Oh, oh, I see.

PC: Yes, they were on first name basis. (AB: Oh, okay) We would just go there all day and sit in awe looking (AB: and just look at them). Yeah.

AB: When you said they shot, was that part of the performance, or people…?

PC: Yes, a part of the performance.

AB: Part of the performance they would shoot a gun, and that would frighten you.

PC: Yes, right.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Uh, were there other things that you all did for recreation? Did you have skating rinks or anything like that? (PC: No, no) Uh, what about a movie?

PC: There were movies. But you know, separate, of course. We had to sit upstairs.

RW-N: Right here in town? (PC: Yes) More than one?

PC: No, just one. (RW-N: Uh-huh)

AB: What was the name of that movie? Do you remember?

PC: Hmmm, isn't that something? [PC is commenting on her not recollecting the name of the theater.]

AB: But it was a segregated movie, so you bought, you…? (PC: Oh, yes) Where did you buy your ticket, at the same ticket…? (PC: At the same ticket place.) But then you had to go in a separate entrance (PC: Right) and sit upstairs in the balcony?

PC: So, I felt so sorry for my children, but I made them do this every weekend for. . . I don't

know how long—"Go and buy you a ticket and go sit downstairs." They did. [recorder beeping]

RW-N: I have a few more minutes on it. (PC: Okay) (AB:When you. . .)

PC: And the next thing they knew, they were being ushered out.

AB: This is your own children, when you had a family of your own?

PC: Right, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: Now when you went into the movie, you, you bought at the same window, and you had to go outside?

PC: No, we, just a little...

RW-N: No. You went in and then (PC: a little hallway) went upstairs right away? Yes, uh-huh.

AB: When you finished the eighth grade at Bethune, what did you do?

PC: When I finished the eighth grade at Bethune, that was as far as I could go. They had not provided anything for us beyond eighth grade. That really struck me when my, my husband died just last month and they, you know, wanted to know how much education he had. I said, "Eighth grade." And then I thought, "How much else could he have?" But anyway, at the same time, there was a ninth grade in Lewisburg. And we decided—now, our parents had nothing to do with this; they, you know, at that time, black parents just accepted. . . this is the way it is, this is the way it's supposed to be. So we started thinking, we don't have anywhere else to go. So one of the boys who had gone there and boarded there—he stayed all week and his sister, who was Evelyn Booze, picked him up on Friday evenings, brought him back and Sunday night she'd take him back. So we thought, "Why can't we go over there to the ninth grade?" But we don't have any money to room and board for a week. So we decided, we'll walk.

RW-N: Now when you say "we," you're talking about. . .

PC: There were about fourteen of us (RW-N: Uh-huh) who decided. But some of the fourteen were my cousins in Caldwell. The joined us there, and we had a ball.

RW-N: So you walked? (PC: Yes) How many miles is that? (PC: Nine)

AB: So you walked every day?

PC: Every day.

AB: Nine, all winter?

PC: All winter. All winter. And we just had a ball. We were celebrities. You know, when it'd snow, we were late. And they would be standing at the window saying, "There they come, there they are!" And of course, we just thought we were something else.

AB: What time did you have to leave White Sulphur Springs?

PC: A little after seven.

AB: You left a little after seven? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And what time was it when you got there?

PC: Oh, maybe nine-thirty.

AB: So it would take you about two-and-a-half hours (PC: Yes) to walk to school? (PC: Right) And you, you left in the dark, I guess.

PC: We did.

AB: What about coming home?

PC: Same thing. We would leave school; was out, I guess, four. But instead of coming home, then we would lollygag around, watch the boys practice football. (RW-N: chuckle) And then it would be later when we started. And again, dark would catch us when we were almost here.

AB: And how long did you do that?

PC: For a year. That was ninth grade. (AB: Uh-huh) Then the next year the Board decided,

"Well, these children are serious. They really want to go to school." So they added a tenth grade. Now, we graduated from the ninth grade, now that they've added the tenth, we graduated again.

AB: You're still walking?

PC: No, they, they rented a pickup truck. Can you picture us in the back of it, you know, peepin' out? (AB: chuckle) And uh, so that went on during my tenth grade year. Then when I was a junior, they added eleventh and twelfth, both grades at a time, and a bus. Now the bus also came from the western end, which is Leslie uh, Quinwood.

RW-N: The western end of . . . (AB and PC: Of the county.) Leslie? (PC: Mmm-hmm) L-e-s- (PC: l-i-e-) l-i-e, and what was the other town? (PC: Rainelle) Yes.

PC: Quinwood. There was another one…

RW-N: So they picked up all the other children now and brought them into Lewisburg?

PC: Now they would have to leave early, early. (RW-N: Uh-huh, right) You know, because some of them would have to walk miles to catch the bus. (RW-N: Right) So that, that was terrible.

RW-N: Were you, now were you. . .you went in a group of about fourteen, fourteen traveling back and forth. (PC: Mmm-hmm) Were you the first group of children who did that? (PC: Yes, yes) So you guys were the ring-leaders and said "We're gonna go to school," and started that? (PC: Yes!) And then the county said, "Well, if those kids want to go to school, we'll do something."

PC: "Well yeah, we'll give them a bus—a, a truck.

AB: And by that time, you had-, your sisters were coming along too. So they followed in your

footsteps?

PC: Excuse me, I'm trying. . . . Well, my brothers didn't come along until I had graduated. But my brother, Jimmy, spent such little time in school, so...but my, my brother, John, I think was in eleventh grade when I started teaching.

END OF TAPE 1-SIDE 1 BEGIN TAPE 1-SIDE 2

AB: . . . they added these grades and so you finally, you got into the twelfth grade and graduated. (PC: And graduated.) Then what did you do?

PC: Then I went to State.

AB: You went down to West Virginia State? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And uh. . .

PC: I was going to Bluefield. [Bluefield State College, which was for black students] And then my husband's nephew said, "Well, you know, school starts whenever," and I said, "No, mine starts whenever." And he said, "You're not going to State?" And I said, "No." And he said, "You have to." So I switched at the very end and went to State. But again, we had no money, you know, and there was a Miss Montague. Have you heard of Margaret Prescott Montague? Who was English. And their farm now has on it what was debatedly the first golf course in America. And it's called Montague, something like that.

RW-N: And where was this?

PC: This was here.

RW-N: In White Sulphur Springs?

PC: Mmm-hmm. And Miss Montague lived in Richmond. She had lived here; I guess she grew up here. And at the end of the year she was giving awards to this-, to the white school for the best student or whatever. So when she found out there was a Bolling [the black school] and, and

a senior class, she offered the same thing there and I won it. So I went up to her house to thank her. And she said, "Now if you want to go to school, I'm on the board of trustees at Hampton. And I'll, I'll make sure you get in Hampton and you won't have any tuition or anything to pay." So I said, "Well, but if I go to Hampton, I can't teach in West Virginia." Because you know, at that time you couldn't. Neither state accepted the other's credentials, so she said, "Well, I'll tell you what I'll do. I don't have any money, but I will pay your tuition wherever you want to go." And that was State. You know how much it was? (AB: Mm-huh) Twenty-five dollars a semester. (laughs) So she paid my semester-, my tuition the whole time I was there.

RW-N: And this was a white woman?

PC: Mmm-hmm.

AB: The whole four years? (PC: The whole four years.) How did you manage with books and dorm and what-not?

PC: I, I worked two jobs.

AB: Down there at the college?

PC: At the college. I worked at both of them, I think, were in the dining hall.

AB: Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: How did you get those jobs?

PC: I guess they had a needy group, you know, those who needed. . .

RW-N: Were a lot of the students working?

PC: Yes. Yes, a lot of them, mmm-hmm.

AB: Tell me, what, what gave you the notion that you wanted to go to college, that that was a possibility for you?

PC: I started teaching when I was four or five. (chuckle) I went to Lewisburg, I think to a graduation maybe. And I saw this little lady who taught, cute little feet and the cutest shoes. I still just go haywire over shoes. And I said, "Oh, my goodness, look at her. She's..." They said, "She's a teacher." And I'm thinking, "The only way you can get shoes like that is to teach." So I was determined to become a teacher. That did it.

AB: All for a pair of shoes.

PC: All for a pair of shoes.

RW-N: And you were-, and you were a child. You were young then.

PC: Yeah, yeah.

RW-N: Was this a black woman, who you were...this?

PC: Yes. We didn't go to any white graduations. (PC and AB: chuckle)

AB: So you, you, did your parents encourage you to do that?

PC: Not that much. You know, as I said, I think they just thought that was the norm. You go to the eighth grade, that's it. Just get a job at the Greenbrier, make the best of it. They, they were the best parents in the world, but I just think they thought like everybody else. This is the way it's supposed to be. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And there had been a very few black students, see, some had gone to Storer, some had gone to Bluefield and some had gone to State. And those schools did have boarding schools for high school students. So they had gone, but very few. And uh, they didn't excite us any because they didn't speak to us when they came back. (chuckles) So...but it was just something we wanted for ourselves.

AB: How did you negotiate the whole business of packing, getting yourself physically from White Sulphur down to Institute and all of that?

PC: Well, we, we went by car. The a, the person who took us had christened, baptized me, as an infant. And he had, at that time, he was the minister at St. James. And he was living in Brownsburg, Virginia. But he had a niece who lived there, too, and she wanted to go to State. So he brought her to Ronceverte and we stayed at the parsonage overnight and he took us to State.

AB: What was his name?

PC: His name was Peters, John Peters.

AB: When you say us, uh. . .

PC: This was his niece and I.

AB: His niece and you. (PC: Mmm-hmm) And where, when you went to West Virginia State, did you live?

PC: I lived at, I lived in. . . (AB: MacCorkle?) No, that was only for guys then. (AB: Uh, Dawson?) Dawson. But that was my-, I lived over the dining hall. That was. . . what was the name of that dorm?... That was my first one. And then I moved to the new one, which is on the end. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: Now what year was this? (PC: This was, I went in '36.) '37? '36? '36, uh-huh, 1936.

PC: Yeah, because I graduated in '40.

RW-N: Uh-huh, 1936, I read your paper that you graduated from, from the high school in 1936. Which was the first. . . .

PC: Graduating class.

RW-N: Graduating class from Bolling. (PC: Yes, uh-huh) Let me ask-, let me go back for a moment. Um, I, I do understand about what you said about those shoes and that teacher.

(chuckle) But was there anyone else in your school who encouraged you in any way (PC: No) or who was a role model for you in any way?

PC: No. I just. . . .

RW-N: So there wasn't a lot of encouragement from the teachers?

PC: From adults, no.

RW-N: From adults, in general.

PC: No, but we had one teacher from Huntington (chuckle) who talked all the time about Stratton. And you know, he made school sound so exciting, so maybe in an indirect way he encouraged us without knowing. (RW-N: Now I don't know Stratton.) His name was Branch. Do you know any Branches?

AB: Yes. I do know Branches. But Stratton was in Beckley.

PC: That's right, it was.

RW-N: Stratton was. . .

PC: Douglass...was in Huntington.

AB: Douglass was in Huntington. Yes, I did know.

PC: Now, Alonzo came here to teach when I was in tenth grade. He was our history teacher.

RW-N: Now this is Alonzo...(PC: Branch) Branch, from Huntington? (PC: From Huntington) And he talked about the high school in Huntington. (PC: Mmm-hmm, in Huntington) Is that right? (PC: Yes) So that maybe...caught your imagination...

PC: That you know, it sounded really-, so exciting. 'Cause Douglass was a big school.

RW-N: Because what, what strikes me is that the fourteen of you sort of, I guess, you encouraged each other to some extent. (PC: Yes, we did.) And yet it doesn't seem to be coming

out of the school.

PC: Nor from home.

RW-N: Nor from home.

PC: No, they were glad we were going, but they didn't say, "This is great! You all," you know, "don't miss a day."

RW-N: Do you think that part of that was because the people who lived in this community essentially were doing okay for themselves? (PC: I think so.) They had steady jobs and so life was okay.

PC: I think so, yeah. They ate well and they dressed fairly well.

RW-N: They ate well.... And so there maybe wasn't the "push" for education (PC: I think so) because this was an okay life.

PC: Right, I think so.

AB: Of the fourteen of you who went down to Bolling, how many graduated from Bolling?

PC: Maybe six.

AB: About six? (PC: Mmm-hmm) Did any of that six, other than you, go on to college?

PC: For part of a year; one or two went for a year. One or two dropped out after the end of the first semester. But I'm the only one who actually graduated.

AB: Did you get to participate in extracurricular activities? Were you able to be in the choir or anything like that?

PC: No, no. And I had no background in that, you know. I chose French as a second field. I had never had a word of French, no background, no anything. And the other students had come from Douglass, Stratton, and the bigger schools, and they at least had had a year. But I, I didn't

have any of that so I was just dumb. (chuckle)

AB: Did you meet anybody at West Virginia State College who became a sort of a mentor or a role model for you?

PC: No, just my roommates, especially when we got to Dawson, where there were suites—you know, the two bedrooms. And then we were a real family. But all of us were poor. And we had one housecoat, one robe. And when the phone rang for whichever, we'd have to snatch it off of whoever was wearing it, to go downstairs and answer the phone. (chuckles) And it was horrible. It looked like the lining of a casket, you know, that old horrible satiny whatever they used to have. It was terrible. But only one had it. And this was a hand-me-down from somebody's mother, you know. But uh. . .

RW-N: But there were enough poor students at State that you didn't feel too bad about that?

PC: No, no, not one bit. There were some who were pretty wealthy. There, there was a group that came from...Oklahoma. And then there was a group from Denver. And they wanted to know if the school provided maids. (AB laughs) You know. And they actually sent one girl home. That was too much at State, asking about maids. (chuckles) But other than that, those two little groups, everybody was poor. And we just had fun. Fun, fun, fun.

AB: Glascock Hall.

PC: Glascock, that was it.

AB: You were saying the first dormitory (PC: Yes, that was it.) you lived in was in old Glascock.

RW-N: Would you spell that?

AB: G-l-a-s-c-o-c-k.

PC: Mmm-hmm, that was it. Yeah, we were the last ones in Glascock.

AB: Did your parents ever come down to State while you were there? (PC: No.) Did they come for your graduation? (PC: My mother did.) Mmm-hmm. Your brothers and sisters come?

PC: They came to visit if anybody from this way was coming; very few cars then, you know. But if they-, if somebody said, "I'm going down to State, you want to see Pearl?" they would jump in. One brother especially would come pretty often.

AB: What did you do during the summers? Did you come back home?

PC: I worked. Five dollars a week. (AB: Here or...here in White Sulphur?) I worked at the uh, what they called the Art Colony, which was on one of the cottage rows.

RW-N: Yes, at the Greenbrier?

PC: Yes. Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: So it was a store, a shop?

PC: No, these were artists who came to learn.

RW-N: At the Art Colony.

PC: At the Art Colony.

AB: And what did you do?

PC: Waited tables. Five dollars a week.

AB: Did you get tips?

PC: Yes, I think I did. Maybe a dollar a week.

AB: And did you do that every summer?

PC: I did that for a couple of summers. And then I started uh, cooking; didn't know a thing about cooking. I just threw a lot of butter in whatever it was. (chuckle) "This is delicious!" "Well, thank you." But (laughing). . . . And I think I got ten dollars a week for that. But I

worked two different places, two cottages. I had lunch at one place and dinner for the other, so, that was big money, twenty dollars a week.

RW-N: And you kept that money? (PC: Yes.) When you were in high school or younger, did you work at all? (PC: No.) So that was sort of your first job?

PC: That was my first job.

AB: And you didn't have to share any of that with your family? (PC: No.) It was all yours?

PC: It was all mine.

RW-N: Did any of your brothers and sisters go to college?

PC: Yes. My, my sister in Cleveland graduated from State. My brother, John, went but he, he thought it was a playground. (chuckle) So he didn't graduate. And my sister, Ann, went a year, I think. But that was it.

AB: What was the racial climate like up here when you were growing up and going through high school and working at the Greenbrier and what-not? How were you treated as black people in this area?

PC: The way black people (chuckle) are usually treated in rural areas. You know, name calling. But my father taught us so well, that we never, never felt inferior or intimidated. You know, he'd say, "Look, you, you just ignore those people and hold your head up and keep going. Don't let them upset you, don't let them frighten you or anything." So that's exactly what we did. And I just grew up thinking I was just as good as anybody else. And I really give him credit for that because. . .

RW-N: Who was doing the name calling?

PC: The white-, the young whites, and of course, the old ones did too. You know.

AB: When you worked at the Greenbrier, how did they treat you?

PC: Very. . . (AB: The people that you worked for.) very well. Uh-huh.

AB: And did your father feel the same way, how do you think he felt about working over there?

PC: He enjoyed it. (PC: Did he?) Uh-huh.

AB: And he. . .

PC: And then, you know, the people who came were from the South, and they have a. . . they have a very unique relationship with blacks. They feel, if they can feel like they own them, or whatever it is—(chuckle) that's not a good word—but you know, you're fine. They wouldn't dare call you a name because you're their boy! You know. But uh, so they were never, they were never mistreated or abused there, you know. They would just say, "Oh, you know, you remind me of my boy, Sam." You know, "He's worked for us for a hundred years." (chuckles) So it was that kind of atmosphere so they felt perfectly safe, perfectly happy. Yeah.

RW-N: Did they feel perfectly happy?

PC: I think so.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm, that was okay?

PC: Yes, I think so.

RW-N: Because they were sort of part of the family, in some way.

PC: Yes, yes, that's the way they made them feel, yes.

RW-N: Well, did you feel that in town? I, I'm trying to get a better image of the town. This is, this is a unique town in a way.

PC: Yes, it's very unique and, (RW-N: uh, because of the Greenbrier) and then I have to add here, at the time we were growing up, chauffeurs also came from the South. And they brought

their families. And there was a boarding house in our neighborhood that kept the families. They uh, they lived near us in our neighborhood. And the husband would go to the Greenbrier and chauffeur the family and do whatever.

RW-N: And would they come for a matter of a short period of time?

PC: They would come-, they stayed all summer.

RW-N: These families came from the South?

PC: Yeah, we cried every summer when they left.

RW-N: So you got to know the chauffeurs' families?

PC: Yes. . .families.

RW-N: They became part of your.. (PC: Yes, or our neighborhood) your neighborhood. And then they would go back home. (PC: Mmm-hmm)

AB: How did the chauffeur's family get here? Did they ride in the same car...(PC: You know, I often wondered about that.) uh, with the white family?

PC: They must have. But I'm sure not with the white families. Maybe they came earlier.

AB: And then he'd go back . . . .

PC: You know, maybe they came this week...(AB: and he's go back and...) and next week he'd go back get them. (AB: and get the others) But I, I guess I was too young to even think about that. But uh, (RW-N: So you were meeting. . .) but I'm sure they didn't ride together.

RW-N: You were meeting people then from different parts of the country, (PC: Yes.) even though it was a rural community.

PC: Even though it was a rural—that's, that's another unique thing about this town. (RW-N: Right) We have met people from all walks of life, you know.

AB: Did the kind of elegance of manners and table service that you find at the Greenbrier, find it's way (PC: yes) into the homes of the black community here?

PC: Yes, yes. Yes, and it was really amazing when I went to college. Those-, my friends knew nothing about table settings. They didn't know which fork to use. Now the ones who majored in home ec did—because that was part of their training. But they didn't know anything about social graces. And as I said, you know, we thought we were rich anyway—with one room. (chuckling) So all of that did rub off. And we just felt like we were hotsy-totsy. (light laughter)

AB: Now when you finished West Virginia State College, what did you do?

PC: I uh, I worked at Hart's Hotel, cause I couldn't get a job down here.

AB: This is the place that you were saying was sort of a rooming house?

PC: No, that was-, that was in our neighborhood, it was just a home (AB: Oh, okay.) where the chauffeurs' families would stay. But Hart Hotel was on Main Street and it still sits back up there.

AB: Here in White Sulphur?

PC: Mmm-hmm. And there are, there are apartments there, I think.

RW-N: Would you spell that, please?

PC: H-a-r-t-'s. But I waited table there, that year.

AB: The first year you were out of college? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) This is 19. . .

PC: In fact, I had-, maybe for a summer before that I had worked up there, too.

AB: So this is the summer of 1940, '41? (PC: '41, yes.) So were you working there when Pearl Harbor occurred?

PC: That was in December. And I. . . I think—isn't that amazing [PC seems to be commenting on her not recalling this clearly]—I think, then, I was working for the Methodist minister. At the

parsonage downtown, which later burned, I guess.

AB: Uh,huh. And had you put in an application for a teaching position at that time?

PC: Yes.

AB: But nothing was available?

PC: Nothing was available, but a school in uh, Clintonville, I think.

AB: And where's Clintonville?

PC: Clintonville is-, you won't see it on 64 [refers to Route number]. It's on old 60. And it's a little community, you know, a family here and a family there.

RW-N: Here in West Virginia?

PC: Yes, it's still in Greenbrier County. And so I inquired about it and—now I have a degree in secondary education. This was an elementary school. Because ours was the only high school. And they were giving me a job there. And so I asked somebody about it, and they said, "Well, you know you have to live there," and you live up in an attic, have to stay up in an attic. They don't have a bathroom. So I told the Board I just couldn't take it. And I said to myself, "This will ruin everything for me." But the next year I did get a job when the English teacher left; she was sick.

AB: At Bolling?

PC: Mmm-hmm. And she went.

AB: So your degree is-, was a Bachelor (PC: Of science.) of Science (PC: In education.) in education. And your teaching fields were what?

PC: English and French.

AB: English and French, in secondary education? (PC: Right.) So that school in Clintonville was

an elementary school?

PC: No [apparently meaning that she should not have been able to teach at the school] And I should not legally have been able to go. (AB: Right) But you see what had happened in this county, was that—he was from Huntington, I think, Robert Murrell. Does that ring a bell? Robert Murrell had a...a degree in biology; I think that's-, I think I'm right. Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He taught for twenty-five years, I think, became—during that time, he became principal of the elementary school in Ronceverte. Now integration is here and so they're moving us around like pawns. So they say to him, "You can't teach elementary school, you have a degree in biology." [He's] Been there twenty-five years, yeah. So they made him move. (AB: Mmm-hmm) But see, you see how it worked. Whatever it was that worked for them was what had to work for us.

AB: So you're, you're saying then that when you-, they would have hired you to teach in Clintonville, although your credentials (PC: Yes! All my credentials were secondary degree.) were the secondary degree. Because it was a black school, (PC: Yes) they would have permitted; (PC: Yes, it didn't matter.) it didn't matter.

PC: It didn't matter.

AB: So then the job opportunity came at Bolling when the English teacher (PC: when the English teacher then...) left. (PC:Yes).

RW-N: I'm sorry, but let me-, could you spell Murrell for me?

AB: M-u-r-r-e-l-l. (RW-N: Okay.) You went to Bolling then (PC: Mmm-hmm.) as a teacher of English? (PC: Right.) And that would have been about 1942?

PC: Yeah, I think so. I graduated in '4-, yes, '42.

AB: In '42, and it was your first teaching job? (PC: Teaching job.) Had you substituted?

PC: Yes.

AB: At Bolling?

PC: At Bolling. But it was in the church. There had been a fire there. I'm not sure which year but Bolling was being built or rebuilt at that time. And I substituted in the church, which was John Wesley.

AB: Let's go back. During the time that you were a student at Bolling, how many rooms do you think were there?

PC: I'd say four.

AB: Four rooms. And how many teachers?

PC: I guess four. That was, uh, Branch, Brown, Jackson, [a fourth name is unclear], Winfield—there might have been six. (AB: Six teachers?) So let's start in the basement, I guess there were six rooms, cause there were two downstairs.

AB: Two rooms in the basement?

PC: Mmm-hmm, two on the second floor and two upstairs.

AB: And two on the third floor. And now Mr. Edgar A. Bolling, Sr., was the principal then.

PC: No. He, he was no longer the principal when I went there in the ninth grade. This was-, the principal then was I think Kenny Jackson from over at Bramwell, somewhere over that way.

AB: Mmm-hmm. So then you began to teach English at Bolling? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And uh, what grades did you teach?

PC: All of them, from seven through twelve.

AB: From seven through twelve, you taught English.

PC: Right. Twenty-two years.

AB: And you spent twenty-two years at Bolling? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And what happened at the—well, what do you think about that experience as a teacher at Bolling?

PC: I loved it. The parents were so cooperative. And this, this when black parents didn't allow their children to be a problem in anybody's class, so I had their full support. And they were good students. Because at that time, you could say to black students, "You have to be twice as good," and they believed it and they worked hard, they really worked hard. And so it was great. I really enjoyed it. Until, it began to wind down. The last year I had thirteen students, seven periods, thirteen students. In the French class I had one. We read the lesson and then we stared at each other for the rest of that hour. (AB: chuckles) That was the worst year I ever spent in my life. And then, to have the feeling that I'm here because they don't want me in the white schools. So they're willing to keep this big building open, heat, lights, everything, just so I can't go to another school. So I was so unhappy, that year. But all the other time I enjoyed so much.

AB: Well, how many teachers were left in the school at that point?

PC: Mmh. . . I think Miss Coleman. And now she, she had a few elementary students, and Mrs. Cabell, too. And Mr. Clay was half principal still there. And then he taught chemistry over at Lewisburg.

AB: So maybe three-and-a-half teachers.

PC: Yeah, three-and-a-half, I'd say.

AB: . . . for thirteen students. (PC: Mmm-hmm) Was that the first year of integration? Or what year do you think?

PC: I think it was the second year of integration.

AB: Do you have a notion what year that was? Was that in the 60s?

PC: Yes, it was in the 60s, because I left there, I think, in '63.

RW-N: In '63, you left there?

PC: I think. I think I did.

RW-N: Okay, 1942, you taught two years [RW-N apparently meant to say 22 years], would have been '64. But it might have been '63.

PC: Okay, could have been '63, '64.

RW-N: '63, '64, yeah. (PC: Whatever)

AB: Uh, how did they-, when you heard about integration, that it was going to happen, what, what was the climate? What did people say and think about it?

PC: Uh...you have to turn it off. [Recorder turned off/on] ...to go to move.

RW-N: So you were happy about segregation?

PC: Yes!

AB: No, happy that integration. . .

RW-N: Integration, right. Because Bolling was uh, was losing students because they were going to integrated schools already (PC: Yes, yes) but you were still at Bolling.

PC: I was still there because some of my parents felt loyal to me. You know, they, they didn't want me to feel that they felt that I was so incompetent that they would send their children across town.

RW-N: So they kept-, okay, and the county kept the school open. (PC: Yes.) But at a certain point. . . (PC: for thirteen!) at a certain point the county said it won't be open any more (PC: no, after...) But you didn't feel really bad about that because you wanted to go to a new place and

...

PC: I felt great about integration, the idea that schools. . . Because I knew everything would be better. We were sitting there with no frills, you know. Typing was unheard of, no band, no instruments, no gym, nothing, just a. . . . but it was a good, basic education.

RW-N: And that had always been true at Bolling, (PC: Yes.) that you did not have those kinds of things. (PC: Any of those things, no.) And did you have any—you had no band—did you have any gym? (PC: No.) Did you have any teams that went to play other teams?

PC: Played in the other school. (RW-N: You did?) And practiced outside and they played at Lewisburg.

RW-N: Un-huh, so you did have some sports teams? (PC: oh yes) And when you were a student at Bolling, and I know this is going back to when Bolling was just adding grades, is it fair to say that you had very little opportunity for those things?

PC: Right. No opportunity.

RW-N: No opportunity when you were a student. (PC: Right) And over the years, some of that had been added. (PC: Mmm-hmm, Mmm-hmm) But you still saw that as not adequate?

PC: No, heavens no.

AB: So in 1954, when the Supreme Court decision was handed down, Bolling was operating seven-, uh, first through twelve (PC: Right.) and in six rooms.

PC: Now, the elementary rooms were separate.

AB: So they had a separate elementary school?

PC: Mmm-hmm. Seven through twelve was in the six rooms.

AB: In the six rooms? (PC: Mmm-hmm) But you had the whole school complex right there?

(PC: Yes, right there.) And a no-frills kind of education?

PC: Yes.

AB: You were pleased, I think you said, that, uh, integration had come about (PC: Yes) because you thought now that the students would have more (PC: More.) opportunities.

PC: More, yes, and more equipment.

AB: And what happened then after 1954? Did the students begin to leave Bolling?

PC: Yes, yes. Because they knew that the other schools had these things that they had wanted all the time.

AB: Mmm-hmm. And so they sort of drifted away. (PC: Yes.) And you got down to a smaller and smaller number.

PC: In the meantime, we had three or four white students who had come to Bolling.

AB: And why, uh. . .what...?

PC: I never knew why.

AB: You, in, in your article, there is a picture of. . .

PC: ...of Elvira.

AB: The white graduate from Bolling. (PC: Mmm-hmm. Uh-huh)

RW-N: We're referring to an article that Mrs. Carter wrote for the Greenbrier County Historical Society. (PC: Uh-huh) Yes. And if it's okay with you with your tape, we will put a copy of that article.

PC: Okay, that's fine.

AB: So as the students drifted away, did they then reduce the number of teachers who were at Bolling?

PC: Some; it seems to me that one or two retired. Well, by this time, we did have a library of sorts. So they, they closed the library and put her in. . .in one of the elementary rooms, I think. In the meantime, she had a master's from West Virginia U. in home ec, I think. But she was a librarian and now she's teaching elementary, whatever.

AB: In one of the white schools?

PC: No, this was at Bolling.

AB: At Bolling? (PC: Mmm-hmm) So were any of the teachers transferred at that time from Bolling to white schools?

PC: No. Mr. Clay was the only one who had been.

AB: And he was teaching part-time chemistry?

PC: He was teaching part-time chemistry. Now the year I left, Bob Murrell went to Ronceverte, and Miss Coleman went over here to the elementary school, I went to White Sulphur High.

AB: So they uh, then the reduction in teachers had occurred by retirement and what-not (PC: Yes.) and it got down to the point that only three of you were left, so only three of you were really placed in the white schools (PC: Right) after integration. (PC: After all that.) And that took ten years almost.

PC: Yeah. It's amazing to believe that [unclear] so much time.

RW-N: Did any of you ask to-, did any of you ask to go to other schools?

PC: Well, no, we were told we weren't going.

RW-N: That you weren't going? (PC: Right.) And this was just sort of by attrition (PC: Yes.) that the school was getting smaller and smaller. (PC: That's right, yes.)

AB: What finally caused them to change the schools?

PC: I think. . . I think that pressure from the citizens of the county, they're thinking. . . they're thinking, "Now let's look at all the money that we're spending, you know, keeping that school going for thirteen students. And what's the point?" (AB: Mmm-hmm.) And then they're thinking, too, you know, "I imagine they did have some pretty good teachers over there. Why can't we try them out?" (AB: Mmm-hmm) None, none of this was ever said but I just-, it's the way I pieced it together.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Now the young white woman who came to school there, (PC: Elvira.) how many years was she there?

PC: She was there two years, I think.

AB: And graduated from Bolling? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) Ah, and you never did understand why she came?

PC: No, I never did. She and...two brothers, maybe,...and then another boy.

AB: Mmm-hmm. But she's the only one who stayed.

PC: Who stayed and who graduated.

AB: When you have had the Bolling reunions, has she come?

PC: No, no, never has.

RW-N: Do you know anything about her?

PC: No, I don't. I think her parents have died. So there's no way to really check and see. When she-, I think she moved to Maryland somewhere after she graduated. (RW-N: But you do have Bolling High School...) I saw her a couple of times after that. (RW-N: You did?) Uh-huh.

RW-N: And, and uh you do have Bolling High School reunions?

PC: Reunions, uh-huh.

RW-N: Is that still pretty active or is that. . . ?

PC: Well, I guess it's a yes and a no. It's a new-, there's new blood in it. Well, because I was the founder of the Alumni; it was really my mother. And you know, I'm thinking, we have the new school now and I'm thinking, "Boy, I wish we had somebody give us some money for a basket. I wish we had somebody." So she said, "Why don't you form an alumni association?" So I said, "Well, that's a good idea." And I did, we organized one here. And I wrote to the other communities and said, "Why don't you form an alumni association, then we can take care of some of these needs." Well, they didn't, they didn't want to. They said, "Why can't we join you?" We said, "Fine." So they did; several from Ronceverte, several from Alderson, joined. [PC later added Lewisburg as well.] And that was a nucleus of the association until the last three years, I think. Now these are just people whose parents went there. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) Or you know, who just remember from (RW-N: Yes.) way back, what it was like. (RW-N: Right.) So it's a different, it's just a whole different organization.

RW-N: How many students were at Bolling uh do you think at, when it was at its, at its. . .

PC: At it's peak maybe? (RW-N: at its peak.) I don't know. In the ninth grade I had like fifty-six, fifty-four. So. . .

RW-N: In the entire ninth grade, you're talking about? (PC: Yes.) Yeah, uh-huh.

AB: What happened to the things from Bolling, records or pictures or anything like that?

PC: Destroyed, I think.

AB: Destroyed.

PC: Just thrown out.

AB: Mmm-hmm. You spent twenty-two years at Bolling and then where did you go?

PC: Came here.

AB: Here to the White Sulphur.

PC: To White Sulphur High School.

AB: High School. And you taught English. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) What grades?

PC: I taught seven and eight, (AB: Seventh and Eighth grades) ninth, tenth. And then the last year I think I just taught eleventh.

AB: And how long did you teach there?

PC: Five. Five years.

AB: Five years? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) And then what happened?

PC: I went to East, the year it opened.

AB: East what?

PC: Greenbrier East.

AB: Greenbrier East. (PC: Mmm-hmm.)

RW-N: Did you request. . .how-, why was that change made?

PC: No, they just decided to take the best teachers from the other schools. (chuckle) I'm just jokin'.

AB: How long did you stay at Greenbrier East?

PC: Ten. (AB: Ten years.) Ten years.

AB: And then what happened?

PC: Then I retired.

AB: Then you retired?

PC: Uh-huh.

AB: When you went. . . when you came here to White Sulphur, how were you received?

PC: Wonderful. So I, I said the principal and the faculty must have done a great job of paving the way. I remember thinking all summer, "This is just another job. You know, I'm not bothered, this-, I'll just be going to school." But when I got to the end of the walk in front of the church, and I started to step down and I looked over there and I saw-, I said, "Oh, my goodness, they might even lynch me." So my knees were trembling. (AB: chuckle) Oh, my goodness, all of a sudden I was a nervous wreck. But then here, here came two students. And they took me by the hand and they said, "Oh, I hope I'm going to be in your class." Both of them, a boy and a girl. And at that moment, all the fear just went away. I never had a problem, never.

AB: From parents?

PC: No, no. And you know at times they would say, parents would say, "I want to see if my daughter can't get in your class." The parents were great. But uh there was a riot that year. And I was not involved in any way.

AB: A racial riot? (PC: Yes.) At the school? (PC: Yes, at the school.)

RW-N: That was the first year you were there?

PC: Yes. And it seemed to have stemmed from the fact—two facts—that the starting basketball team were all black. So they called them the Harlem Globetrotters. Then the, the head cheerleader was black. So neither of those things went well, not only with the students, with parents. They were the most upset, I guess. (AB: Mmm-hmm) So that, that's what created the, the riot. And then a couple of little interracial affairs were cropping up, you know.

RW-N: Affairs. . . ? (PC: Well, boyfriend, girlfriend things...) Between students, girlfriend, boyfriends. (PC: Yes, yeah) What did the riot consist of?

PC: Students who protested in front of the school.

AB: White students?

PC: White students. They marched and they shouted, you know, nasty things. Now in the meantime, my daughter is in a white elementary school. So she came home, she said, "Mom, I don't really understand what's going on." She said, "They were all over there, all these people were in front of the school and they was saying, 'We want a white school, we want a white school.' " She said, "I really liked the brick." [PC changed this to: " I really liked our brick school."] So she had no idea what was going on. You know, she thought they meant a building.

AB: (laughing) She didn't know they meant race!

PC: No, she had no idea. And she said, "You know, I like the brick; I think it's nice." (PC and AB laughing)

AB: So how was that settled?

PC: Again through the principal, I think. He really set the tone.

AB: What was his name?

PC: Anderson, Emory Anderson.

AB: Emory Anderson.

PC: And because I remember they called me in on a meeting of a couple of ring-leader students. And so the students said—oh, they had the superintendent there—said, "How would you feel if you went to Lewisburg and they'd say, 'How's your nigger team or how're the Globetrotters?' " And so, the superintendent said, "Well, I'd feel pretty proud. Because they are a good team. They have a great season and I'd feel pretty proud, and I'd say, 'Thank you, very much.' "

RW-N: Now this was this Mr. Anderson?

PC: This was the superintendent.

RW-N: This was the superintendent.

PC: Uh-huh. And then Mr. Anderson said things that were similar to that. But he also said, "This is the way it's gonna be. Now you'll either go to school here or you can stay home and let the law take care of whatever." It was a no-nonsense thing with him. You know, not any of this pandering and carrying on.

RW-N: Do you remember the superintendent's name?

PC: No, that's terrible.

RW-N: No, that's not terrible, that's fine.

AB: But it was settled in a day or so? (PC: Yes.) And there was never any problem?

PC: By the end of the week, I think.

AB: No more problems after that?

PC: No.

RW-N: How many black teachers were in that school when you went there?

PC: I was it.

RW-W: You was it—you were it.

AB: You were the only black teacher? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) During your whole time there, were there other black teachers who ever came?

PC: Yes, Matt-, Mattox, who came my last year there. But she also went to East, too.

RW-N: With you? (PC: Uh-huh) At the same time?

PC: She uh, she taught biology that year because the biology teacher moved to Charleston and recommended Delores [Mattox] because she had been a student of hers.

AB: This was a white biology teacher?

PC: Yes, she recommended Delores, the black biologist who had just graduated from State, to teach biology, because she said she's an excellent student and should make a good teacher, and she was, a very good teacher.

AB: But the two of you then . . . (PC: Were the only ones.) And both of you went to East at the same time? (PC: Mmm-hmm) And were you replaced by any other black people? (PC: No.) And what about at East? Were you the only two black teachers there?

PC: No, Bob Murrell was there (AB: there, uh-huh) teaching driver ed. Uh...there was a young man from over at Beckley, I think. But I can't even remember his name and he only stayed that year, if he stayed the whole year. So that would be through Reverend Law. Do you know Reverend Law?

AB: Yes.

PC: He was there. So that, what is that? Five? Reverend Law...

AB: Is there anybody there now? Any blacks?

PC: There are two. There're Darrell Bartley, who is the golf instructor, coach, and Marion Gordon. And I think he coaches football. And they both teach driver ed, I think, (AB: Mmm-hmm) something like that.

AB: So, you had twenty-two years at Bolling, five years at White Sulphur, and ten years at East for a total of thirty-seven years that you taught school. (PC: Right. Mmm-hmm.)

RW-N: And, and when you were at Sulphur-, White Sulphur, was that a junior high?

PC: No, that was high school then. It later became a junior high.

RW-N: Okay. And is that when you taught seventh and eighth grade English because...?

PC: No, no, it was a high school. It started with seventh grade.

RW-N: But it was called the high school? (PC: Yes.) But it started with seventh grade? (PC: It started with seventh grade.) How many black students were there at the time? (PC: ohh..) Or if you had to take a guess about the percentage, was it five percent black, fifty percent black?

PC: No, not fifty percent. Let's go with the five. (AB chuckles)

RW-N: Five would be closer. (PC: Yeah, very small.) Oh, okay, okay.

AB: You said uh, when we talked earlier there were about five hundred black people in White Sulphur Springs. Are there still that many here now?

PC: That's hard to say; I don't know. (AB: Mmm-hmm)

RW-N: But there's still a viable black community here?

PC: Depends on what you mean by viable.

RW-N: Programs that... some, some sense of community. . . (PC: I guess, you know the . . .) More scattered?

PC: Well, it's back to the churches. (AB: Mmm-hmm.) You know, the, the Baptist church has the larger congregation, because they have a new minister who's fairly young, he's not a young man, but middle-aged.

RW-N: And is that church mostly black?

PC: Yes, oh, yes. They might have two white members, I'm not sure.

RW-N: So if there's any sense of community, you're saying the that church (PC: It's around-, it centers around the church.) centers around the church. (PC: Uh-huh.) Was that true when you were growing up, as well?

PC: Yes. But then later on, when things began to open up, then the church sort of lost its... its

place, I guess. But now we're, we're back to that. Now St. James, which was my church, has sort of really gone down in the last ten or twelve years.

RW-N: That's the Methodist church? (PC: Mmm-hmm.)

AB: So there are two black churches in White Sulphur?

PC: On this street.

AB: On this street? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) One of them is St. James Methodist? (PC: Uh-huh) And the other one is. . . ?

PC: First Baptist.

AB: Is First Baptist. Uh, did you say Emmanuel?

PC: Emmanuel is the formerly all white Methodist. (AB: I see.) My sisters and I go there, belong there.

AB: To Emmanuel? (PC: Uh-huh.) So your membership is not in the black church any more?

PC: No, no, but my brother is the lay leader up here still.

AB: Uh, we haven't talked much about your husband. His name was Robert Carter?

[machine beeping end of tape]

END OF TAPE 1 - SIDE 2 BEGIN TAPE 2 - SIDE 1

AB: This is Ancella Bickley. Rita Wicks-Nelson and I are at the home of Mrs. Pearl Swann Carter in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Today is October 2nd, 2001.

RW-N: Okay. Uh, Mrs. Carter, we thought we would begin this morning by asking you whether, as you thought of this overnight, whether anything had come up that you wanted to add in any way. You said that you had some dates that you might give us.

PC: I have the dates of my parents. . .

RW-N: You want to give them to us?

PC: Yes, I will.

RW-N: Then we can get them on tape, too.

PC: Okay. Mother was born 1898.

RW-N: Your mother was born in 1898.

PC: '98. And died 199-, sorry, 1979. (RW-N: 1979, okay.) Daddy was born 1880, and died 1949. Both nines.

RW-N: 1949.

PC: '49. Thirty years after.

RW-N: Yes, mmm-hmm. And you know, we realize that we didn't have your mother's name.

PC: Oh, really?

RW-N: We didn't, we didn't think we did anyhow.

PC: (chuckling) I laugh because Mother's name was Annie Myrtle Nellie Jane Chambers Swann.

RW-N: Annie. . . (PC: Myrtle) Myrtle (PC: Nellie) Nellie (PC: Jane) Jane (PC: Chambers) Chambers (Swann). Yes, I think we have the Chambers but. . .

PC: I think so, which we're not too sure of. (RW-N: Chambers, Swann)

AB: That's a lot of name for a four-foot lady.

PC: And she dared us to tell anybody. (laughing)

AB: Were those uh, relatives—aunts, uncles, mothers, or something?

PC: I don't know. But she had another sister named Jane. Isn't that funny? Emily Jane...Emma Jane.

RW-N: And you have a. . .you have a sister named Anne or [unclear]?

PC: Yes, named after Mother. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm)

AB: What was the education level of your parents? Did they go to school here in. . .?

PC: No, my, my mother…I said, there's so much about her that I don't know. She lived for awhile in Oriskany, Virginia. Have you heard of that? (AB: No.) It's over near Roanoke. I've seen the signs.

AB: How do you spell that?

PC: O-r-i-s-k-a-n-y, I think that's it. Oriskany. And there she lived with a white family. And it sounded as if she might have been a nurse because they taught-, the children taught her a little French, you know, just a word for this and a word for that. And uh, so, but I'm sure she went-, did not go very far in school. My father went to fifth grade only; smart as a tack.

AB: With uh-, you spoke about your parents' sisters—your father's sisters and all—did you know those, (PC: Never.) that part of the family?

PC: I think I saw Aunt Martha when I was very, very young. She was the only member that he was able to contact after he became free. And it seemed that she lived. . .

AB: No, wait a minute, he became free. . . you mean. . .

PC: Oh, I'm talking about my grandfather. (AB: Your grandfather) This is my grandfather's sister.

AB: Your Aunt Martha was your grandfather's sister?

PC: Grandfather's sister.

RW-N: So you had some contact with her?

PC: Just once. I just remember seeing her. But my father's sisters, I guess I knew them all.

AB: How many were there?

PC: Uh, there was Lizzy, who was the oldest. Katie was the mother of John—Johnny Hodges—did you ever hear of Johnny Hodges? The great saxophonist! (all laughing) Lizzy, Katie, Julia, Daisy, so we knew all of them. I even visited Aunt Daisy in California.

RW-N: Now they didn't live around here? (PC: No, no.) But you had contacts with them. (PC: Right.) And how about your mother's uh family, her brothers and sisters? Did you have contact with them?

PC: Oh, yes, uh-huh, until, until they died. And uh. . . .

AB: And where were they?

PC: They, the one brother-, well, both brothers were in mmh, my goodness. . . .

RW-N: But none of them lived around here either?

PC: No, no. In their younger years they did. And, but her sisters all did. One, the last one died in Lewisburg. The oldest one died in Caldwell.

RW-N: So you were a big family, and if they didn't live here, you still had contact with (PC: Yes, mmm-hmm) these aunts and uncles, right?

PC: Yes, uh-huh.

RW-N: So you visited back and forth. Uh, did you ever spend holidays together? (PC: No.) But you did-, but they certainly were a presence in your life?

PC: Yes. Yes, very much so.

AB: We talked yesterday about the Native American relative in your family. Were there any white relatives that you know about or any inter-marriage, or mixture from slavery down?

PC: You know, that's hard to say. Remember I, you know, what I said about Mother. We just had always wondered about her. (RW-N: About your Mom?) Yes. We just did not feel that she was full blooded (AB: Black.) Right. You know. And uh…

AB: But you couldn't ask.

PC: No, dare not! And you see, Mother was very fair and all of them were very dark. And uh, she had beautiful hair. And all of that just made us, as we grew older, we started wondering, "My goodness, Mother doesn't look like this." And then this grandfather bit, we were never sure of; nobody to ask. So I don't know of any real other, other than my grandfather and Granny Swann, who was the Indian. But uh…

RW-N: Mmm-hmm, right. Let me-, I want to skip for a moment, or go over to talk about you, in terms of your education. We know that you have a Bachelor of Science degree in two fields. Did you, did you accumulate any other college credits after this?

PC: I went to Marshall.

RW-N: You went to Marshall?

PC: Mmm-hmm. Was working on my master's until my principal told us that we would never teach, you know, in the white schools, so I stopped. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.) I said, "What's the point?"

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. How long, how far along had you gotten on that? Do you remember?

PC: No, maybe twenty hours or so.

RW-N: And you were taking. . .that was gonna be a master's like in education?

PC: Yes. (RW-N: yeah, uh-huh) I also did a federal, I guess it was called a Defense Program, where I went to a French Institute. That was at Petersburg, Virginia.

RW-N: Some kind of federal program?

PC: Mmm-hmm. (RW-N: in French) You remember the United States decided all of a sudden we need some foreign language. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And they started waking [that is, rounded up] all these people who'd had a little bit of French or whatever.

AB: You actually taught French in. . . .

PC: Didn't know any. (chuckling) I did.

RW-N: But you did teach it?

PC: A little bit. I taught it a couple of years, I guess. And we were fortunate enough, my sister Ann had neighbors from Switzerland, and it's their native language, of course. So I had them to do my dialogue, you know, the lessons that had dialogue. So I had the real accent there.

RW-N: Well, I think it's very difficult for Americans in general to learn to be teaching these languages because we're not surrounded (PC: Oh, I think so too.) by it at all.

PC: We're not. And if you have no background. (RW-N: Right) In college they taught as if you knew the basics and I knew nothing. And even when I went to, to Petersburg, we did this pre-test with the ear phones and everything, and I'm sitting there staring at the book and the professor came around, and wow, you know how emotional they are. They were on page 11, and I was still staring at the introduction. ([laughing lightly) (RW-N: Yeah)

AB: We were beginning to talk uh yesterday a bit about your husband. Would you tell us a little bit about him, please? His full name?

PC: His full name, Robert Alphonso Carter.

AB: Alphonso with an "o"?

PC: "o".

AB: A-l-p-h-o-n-s-o (PC: Right) Carter. And was he a native of White Sulphur?

PC: Yes. He was born here, mmm-hmm, went to school at Bethune (AB: Uh-huh) and uh, went to work at an early age, because his father was an alcoholic. And uh, his mother took in laundry from the Greenbrier. So he had to walk down the track with the baskets of clean clothes.

RW-N: So he dropped out of school early on?

PC: Well, there was no school to drop out of. (RW-N: Right.) He did finish the eighth grade.

RW-N: Uh-huh, okay, right.

PC: But I guess he did that in between, or maybe leaving early, whatever.

AB: What was his birthdate?

PC: September 5th, 1912.

AB: September 5th, 1912. And uh were you all childhood sweethearts?

PC: No, not really. He-, we had our minister's daughter living with us because she worked here; she was from Maryland. You know how Methodist ministers are, they move frequently. So she came to live with her Mother–she was not his daughter–and they started going around together. But he also took me. You know, wherever he took her to the movie, or wherever.

AB: You had a threesome!

PC: Yeah, had a threesome. And uh so she went with her parents one year to conference. When she came back, she had found a boyfriend. And it was the boyfriend they had hoped her to have all along. He was from Ronceverte. And he had driven them, I think, to conference. So, of course, his heart was broken. And he started asking me, "Well, you want to go to the movie?" I said, "Sure, I'll go."

RW-N: How old were you?

PC: (chuckling) Fourteen. . .I think.

RW-N: So he was a handful of years older?

PC: Yes, yes he was, which was not very good in those days. "I wouldn't let that girl go out with that guy. You know how old he is." Just going to the movie. (laughing) So as time went on, we just got closer and closer. And by the time we-, I went to college, we were pretty close.

RW-N: But you still went off to college? (PC: Yes.) Leaving him here? (PC: Yes.)

AB: And did you date while you were in college?

PC: Yes. (laughter)

RW-N: Were you supposed to be dating while you're in college?

PC: Nooo, nooo.

RW-N: Was he dating up here? (chuckles)

PC: Not really dating, but I think every now and then he. . . You know, this is a town where people came often and went. And uh, I think...

RW-N: So you were away four years? (PC: Right.) But that relationship obviously continued.

PC: Continued, right.

RW-N: And then when did you marry?

PC: Forty-two.

RW-N: When you. . .

PC: That was the same (RW-N: two years after, uh-huh) year I started teaching.

RW-N: Started to teach, right.

AB: Did you have a big wedding, church wedding? Or. . .

PC: No, as poor as we were! (laughing) No. Only my father went with us.

AB: So you-, where'd you go, to the church or Justice of the Peace or...?

PC: We were married in the uh, in the Presbyterian—they have manses, I think—we call ours parsonages.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Why, why did you go to the Presbyterians?

PC: Well, the reason I went there. . .

AB: This is a white Presbyterian?

PC: Yes. And at that time I-, remember I mentioned Hart Hotel? (AB: Mmm-hmm.) Where I was working. Well, they-, the Brandons, his name was Don Brandon, would come over to the hotel to drink coffee all day with the . . .

RW-N: He's the pastor?

PC: He was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church. So when I told Mrs. Hart I was gonna get married, she said, "Why don't you let Don do it?" "Well," I said, "I'm gonna ask Reverend Tate,"—who lived down the street, was a local minister. But he was not licensed to perform a marriage. So then I had to ask Don to do it. So that's. . .

AB: What about the Methodist minister? Did you all have a minister who came in every other week or so?

PC: Every other Sunday. (AB: Uh-huh) But we never had one who lived here. (AB: Mmm-hmm) See, so there was not one here.

AB: Why didn't your mother go with you to the wedding?

PC: That's a good question. I guess we didn't ask her. (laughing) But she stayed at home with-, see, I had the younger sisters. (AB: sisters) Right, so I guess she must have stayed with them, because Ann, who was really my child. I claimed her because,

you know how mothers were in those days when they were gonna have a baby. They would say, "How would you like to have a little sister?" or whatever a couple of months before, you know. And I said, "Oh, I would love to have a little sister." Well, my brother wanted a big brother like Horace Coleman next door. He was a man! (laughs) So, when Ann came and he found out she was a little girl, he just went off! Banged his head on the floor for two whole days, just screaming! Screaming! "I wanted a brother!" But I was tickled to death with a little sister. So Mother said, "She's yours." So I washed for her, washed her little diapers, bought her, her first dress, seventy-nine cents at National Bellas Hess. (chuckles) So she, you know, we were just really attached to each other. So she was washing dishes and I said, "Baby Ann,"—we called her Baby Ann—I said, "Baby Ann, I'm going to get married." And she just started-, tears just started flowing. So I said, "Don't worry, you can always live with me." And she did.

AB: So when you and your husband got married, was he in the service at all? This was war time.

PC: Very short while. (AB: Uh-huh) He had a bad stomach that-, which they thought was an ulcer. But they determined that it was just a nervous stomach. But he could eat and five minutes later it would come back up. I guess they couldn't have that on battlefield or whatever. (chuckle)

AB: So he was in the Army? (PC: Mmm-hmm. Just for a short time.) Just for a short time. Did you go, travel with him at all? (PC: No.) You stayed here? (PC: Right.) Well, during the war years, when the Greenbrier became a hospital, what happened, what did that do to the work for people like your father and your husband?

PC: They all worked there.

AB: They continued to work?

PC: Yes. My father was-, I guess he was the mailman. Because he, he delivered mail all throughout the cottages. And that, I decided, finally led to a heart attack. Because there's a lot of climbing. And uh, so he was a patient there at the hospital. (AB: Who, your father was?) Mmm-hmm.

AB: Oh, really? So they took civilians in? (PC: Yes!) Or, or was it just because he had that connection, had worked there before?

PC: Well, I went up there when I cut a finger or something. They took me and dressed my finger. And I think a lot of people from the village went up there.

AB: And your husband worked, after he came back out of the service, he worked there (PC: yes, he worked, uh-huh, and made the coffee.) as well. Mmm-hmm. Uh, when you all first married, where did you live? Did you uh…?

PC: We lived down the street, fourteen dollars a month, in an apartment upstairs. I'll show it to you when you leave. And then…I guess it was in '49 that we built our home.

AB: You built the house that we're now in?

PC: No, that's down, down the street. This is a much older house. And uh, so, so Ann was still living with us, when we moved. And she married and had a son who was born there in my bedroom. And then she had another child, and then she had-, no, then after the son she had twins. So in the meantime, her husband had started a home for them. Really nice home. But she didn't want to leave. So her …

AB: She wanted to stay with you?

PC: She wanted to stay with me. So my husband took the cribs which they had ready to go, took them down there and he said, "Okay, Baby Ann, the cribs are down there, now it's time to go." But she left tearfully. (chuckles)

AB: And she continues to live here in, (PC: In White Sulphur.) in White Sulphur. And does your closeness continue…(PC: You see, her husband died too.) Does your closeness with her continue?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm.

AB: Mmm-hmm. Now, so you and your husband now are living in this apartment. When did your children begin to come?

PC: Bobby was born in '45, (AB: Uh-huh) and Vickie in '57.

AB: You just had the two children? (PC: Just the two.) A son and a daughter. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) And your son makes his home where?

PC: In Hempstead, New York, which is on Long Island. (AB: Mmm-hmm) He works for Verizon. He's a training and recruitment manager.

RW-N: When I was a child, I lived in the next town from Hempstead. (PC: Really?) I come from Long Island. (PC: Which one? Which town?) I lived in Garden City.

PC: Oh, that's where we go to shop.

RW-N: But I wasn't rich! I lived right-, one street was Hempstead, one more street.

PC: That's the reputation. (RW-N: I know.) Only rich people live in Garden City.

RW-N: That's right. Well, I lived right on the border of Hempstead. But when I was a kid, Hempstead was the place where we shopped, my grandmother lived there… and everything.

PC: Really? (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.) Well, we go to Sears in Garden City, which is huge. (RW-N: Yeah) And several other stores.

RW-N: Well, yeah, it's all changed now. It's all built up from when I was a child.

PC: Mmm-hmm, yeah.

AB: So did your son marry a girl from White Sulphur?

PC: No, she was from New York.

AB: From New York. And do they have children?

PC: They have two, the two girls.

AB: Is this your family? [looking at a photo] (PC: Yes.) With his wife and. . .

PC: And the two girls.

AB: And they all make their home in New York? (PC: Yes.) And what about your daughter?

PC: My daughter lives in Rockville, Maryland.

AB: And does she have children?

PC: One.

AB: One? Girl, boy?

PC: Boy.

AB: A boy.

RW-N: So you have three grandchildren?

PC: Right. And one great. My first great was born July 11th. And my husband's-, I said, "Father,"—we called him Father—I said, "Father, Scootie has a little girl." And he said, "Oh, I hope she'll kiss me the way Scootie did." (RW-N: Mmm-mmm)

AB: I'm looking at a picture here of-, looks like an inter-racial wedding.

PC: Is it dust-covered? That's my niece's wedding.

AB: This is your niece?

PC: That's Barbara's daughter.

AB: Your sister Barbara's daughter?

PC: Mmm-hmm. They live in Chesapeake.

AB: Chesapeake, uh. . .

RW-N: Near Charleston, you mean?

PC: No, in (RW-W: No, different)—I forget there's a Chesapeake here—in Virginia. (RW-N: There's a Chesapeake, right.)

AB: Chesapeake. . .

PC: Near Virginia Beach. (AB: Uh-huh) They started out in Virginia Beach. There were married here.

AB: Here at your house?

PC: No, at uh St. James.

AB: That's interesting. Where did she meet him?

PC: She met him in, in Morgantown at school.

RW-N: Ohh , yeah.

PC: And he's a therapist. He's a physical therapist.

AB: Uh-huh. And how long have they been married?

PC: Oh, wow. . .

RW-N: And what does she do?

PC: Twenty years. . . She, she is a photographer. (RW-N: Uh-huh) A strange job. She, she, you know, she takes pictures of newborns at a hospital there. She did work for a travel agency.

RW-N: And they've been married a while, you say?

PC: Yes, they have, the daughter is. . .

RW-N: They're a good looking couple.

PC: Yes, they are. And we love him to death.

AB: And the union has gone well? I mean, their marriage. . .

PC: Very well, yes.

RW-N: Is he the only white uh person that, that the younger generation has married?

PC: No, Barbara's son, Barbara's youngest son, has also married a white girl. He lives in Houston.

RW-N: But none of your brothers and sisters have?

PC: No.

RW-N: But the younger generation, a couple have. (PC: Yes, mmm-hmm.) I ask you that because we, we have found that in families where we have talked to the women.

PC: Really?

AB: Is this the same? [referring to photo]

PC: That's the same. Those are his two children. (AB: This child?) That's right, those two.

AB: Uh-huh, and this is his wife?

PC: No, that's Tracy. That's his wife. [referring to photo] Tracy lives in Melbourne, Florida.

RW-N: Very handsome.

PC: Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: That's Ancella poking at the photographs down here. [chuckling]

PC: They're all dust-covered.

RW-N: So tell us more about your husband. He worked-, did he work his whole working-life at the Greenbrier?

PC: Mmm-hmm, he finally became a bell captain, just like my dad.

RW-N: So you were the daughter of a bell captain, (PC: Yes) and the wife. . . (PC: And the wife...) So you've had a long relationship with the Greenbrier.

PC: Greenbrier, yes. (RW-N: Even though you never worked there?) No. (RW-N: Not really, uh-huh)

AB: Among the things that Joan [a mutual friend] was showing us last night, there was a little newsletter, I think it was called the Brier Chat (PC: Yes) or something like that (PC: Uh-huh.) So-, with pictures of employees, and there was an employee Christmas party. (PC: Every year.) It seems that the, the Greenbrier did a lot to kind of bring, I guess, people together. (PC: It did, it did.) So it almost was like a family.

PC: It was called the Greenbrier family. . .until recent years, when managers have become younger, I guess. They don't have that... (RW-N: It's changed.) Right.

AB: During the years that they were building that bunker down there—I came up and toured that a few years ago. (PC: Did you really?) Did you all have any notion that anything was going on? [This refers to a bunker complex built under the Greenbrier during 1958-1962 by the federal government to house Congress in the event of a nuclear strike.]

PC: Yes, we knew.

AB: Did you? Did you know what it was?

PC: Yes...finally we knew. (AB: Uh-huh.) But it took forever, because you know how far down it is. (AB: Mmm-hmm) It took years to build. And finally this-, we don't have many secrets. You know our country doesn't have many secrets, so... In one Sunday Gazette, [Charleston newpaper] they had a big write-up about it. And they told about this hide-away where the president could come. Now we're not-, we cannot say where it is, but it's located in the mountains of West, of West Virginia. They went on and on, and so, there you had it. (RW-N: So you knew, right.) It was right there.

AB: But you all suspected that something was going on?

PC: Well, you know, people whispered, you know, "This is going to be the hide-away for the president." They called it the second White House. "This is going to be the second White House." And so we really knew, you know, long before it was really made public. And my brother-in-law, Barbara's husband, was one of those with a pass. Very few employees were, were permitted there. But he had to go down and change the food, you know, every so often when, you know, (RW-N: Oh yes, they kept food there all the time, right.) food expired. The date, you know, oh, yes, the date expired so they had to throw all that food out and put in fresh supplies.

RW-N: How would you describe your husband? I mean in terms of his personality.

PC: Right. It was a wit. (RW-N: He was a wit?) A wit. Just a keen sense of wit, could make anybody laugh. No rehearsal, you know, it just came naturally. (RW-N: Mmm-mmm) Just lots of fun. We were real good buddies. And the nieces and nephews loved him to death. And uh, now when he, when we were married, or when my father died, Barbara and Toodles, I think we had pictures of Toodles. Toodles was named after a doll, (AB: chuckle) who was popular the year that she was born, so this is our Toodles.

RW-N: Now, now who is Toodles?

PC: Toodles is next to Barbara. (AB: Your sister.) She's next to the baby, yes. (RW-N: Okay)

AB: Is Toodles her name or a nickname?

PC: Her name is Grace.

AB: Grace, but you all called her Toodles. (PC: Amazing Grace) Amazing... (PC: laughs)

RW-N: So this was a sister? Okay.

AB: And you called her Toodles? (PC: Right) (RW-N: Yes)

PC: Toodles had eight children, one died. Barbara and Toodles both lost sons the same year.

RW-N: Lost sons...? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) To what? Illnesses? (PC: Illnesses, mmm-hmm.) Uh-huh, okay. Uh, so your husband fit into your family (PC: Oh, Heavens. . .) beautifully?

PC: He used to say, "I have the best out-laws in the world." (all laugh) And my mother loved him. As I said, when we first started going together, you know how old biddies were in those days: "I wouldn't let that girl go around with that boy. He's too old for her." And so, Mother was kind of standoffish, too, for awhile. But when, when we-, while I was away at college, they became great buddies. He loved chicken, fried chicken, and he would have Mother to fry him a chicken. He would eat the whole thing, the whole chicken. So they were great buddies.

RW-N: Did you know you were going to marry him when you were at State, or. . .what was that like?

PC: Mmm, guess I did. (chuckle) I ordered a set of sheets from Macy's, had them monogrammed...oh, my goodness, I guess the year I came out of college, and had the whatever it was to pay for these sheets. (RW-N: Yeah) So I said, "Now if he doesn't marry me, I'll just

embroider, uh embroider a dragon or something over the C, and leave the P and the S on each side of it. (laughing) But I'm sure I knew I was going to.

RW-N: So uh, did you—by the way, I know, I know you lost your husband very recently (PC: Yes.) So, this is not painful to be talking about it like this?

PC: I don't think so.

RW-N: Did you uh travel much? Did-, what kinds of things did you do together?

PC: We went to dances together; both of us loved to dance. We went to see our friends in California and we went to New York often. His family were all in New York. (RW-N: Uh-huh) And so we visited them quite often; every year we went there.

AB: Did you drive or fly or what?

PC: We went on the train usually. Until we went to California. Of course, we went-, we flew. But uh, we just had good times together.

AB: Now, the house that we are visiting you in is a large two-story house. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) And at some point in your-, you said you built a house and then you moved into this one?

PC: Moved up here. Because the house down, down the street is a smaller house. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And one summer we had fourteen children there, (RW-N chuckles) all my sisters came and brought their families. Toodles had her family in the basement.

AB: So you just decided that you needed more space?

PC: More space. And then there was nobody. (chuckle)

RW-N: Was that happening because uh. . .because you were sort of the oldest one in the (PC: I guess.) family and you were kind of the second mother (PC: I guess.) to the family, some sense of that? (PC: I guess.) And of course, they liked your husband, so he welcomed them? Yes.

PC: Yes, so he just welcomed. . . welcomed them in. Now, Ann was living with us with her three, which, well, four by that time.

END OF TAPE 2 - SIDE 1 BEGIN TAPE 2 - SIDE 2

AB: The neighborhood in, in which we are, is this a black neighborhood? Do you have white neighbors?

PC: Not now.

AB Were there at one time? (PC: Yes, uh-huh.) When you first came here?

PC: There's a white family on this side of the street, at the end of the street.

AB: Uh-huh. When you first came to live here, was it a black neighborhood? (PC: Yes.) It has always been during your whole residence. (PC: Predominantly, yes.)

RW-N: And. . .

AB: What about where you lived before you came here? Was that a black neighborhood, as well?

PC: Except for one family.

AB: Except for one family.

RW-N: How long have you been in this house?

PC: Oh, my goodness. . . (RW-N: Long time?) Long time. I'd say thirty years. Vickie was sixteen, I believe.

RW-N: Your children uh went to school locally, right? Graduated from the local high school?

PC: Yes, White Sulphur.

RW-N: White Sulphur High School. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) And then did they go on to school any after that, or did they start work or what?

PC: No, no, uh, Bobby went to State. (RW-N: Uh-huh.) And Vickie went to Marshall.

RW-N: Oh, okay. And did they graduate?

PC: Yes.

RW-N: And now, and your son you said works for the communication company?

PC: Verizon.

RW-N: Verizon. Has your daughter worked, or what (PC: Yes) kind of field did she study?

PC: She, she was, her major was vocational counseling. (RW-N: Uh-huh) But she's never done any of that, per se. She's always worked in the medical field, and right now she works at a gastroenterology clinic, where she is the coordinator between the nurses and clerical staff.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. And this is in Hempstead? Or no, she's in Maryland, she's in Maryland.

PC: No, this is in-, she's in Rockville.

RW-N: Yes, mmm-hmm. Um, and grandchildren have scattered about at this point?

PC: Right. Toi graduated from uh, SUNY [State University of New York] (RW-N: Oh yes) and uh-, where Toodles lives, oh... New York.

AB: Uh, were-, was your husband or your father, were they members of things like lodges? Did you have Masons or so here?

PC: Yes, he was a Shriner; he was a ...

AB: Your husband was?

PC: Mmm-hmm.

AB: What about your father?

PC: He was an Elk. I just happened to think [unclear].

AB: What about your mother? Was she . . .?

PC: Only church groups, ladies aide and that kind of thing.

AB: Not Eastern Star?

PC: No, no.

AB: Or anything like that?

PC: No.

AB: Did the Elks or the Masons, did they do anything socially that involved you and your husband? Were there dances or did he go to when they would have their turnouts or whatever?

PC: No, he never did. But my brother did. But he, he never did.

AB: Never did. So it didn't mean a whole lot to you as a family, socially?

PC: No, no to be a Mason, or the Shriners. Because the Shriners are...in Beckley, that's where their headquarters is so we didn't travel to Beckley for any of the balls or whatever.

AB: What about you and sororities? Were you involved?

PC: Too poor.

RW-N: Too poor. (all chuckling)

AB: So you, you never joined?

PC: No, no. After I started teaching, I, I paid my sister's way into AKA. But I was never. . .

RW-N: Which is a women's (PC: sorority) sorority.

AB: What about other organizations or clubs? Were there anything. . .was there anything like that here that you were a part of, any kind of a. . . ?

PC: No, not then. I later became involved in a lot. I was president of the Lewisburg branch of AAUW. [American Association of University Women] (AB: Mmm-hmm) And I was on the Board of Trustees for our local library, was on the Board of Trustees for Hospice, which is in

Lewisburg. (AB: Mmm-hmm.) And I was on the—I was trying to think of it this morning—I think it was called Education Laboratory. Had you ever heard of that?

AB: Only the Appalachia. . .

RW-N: Appalachia. . .

AB: Appalachia Education Laboratory. [all saying the name] Uh-huh. (PC: Right, okay).

RW-N: How were you associated with that?

PC: I was a member of what do they-, a Member at Large, I, I think.

RW-N: Which meant what? That you were. . .

PC: Twice a year I had to go to meetings. (RW-N: Yes) And I was trying to remember the states. I think there are-, were eleven . . .

RW-N: Appalachian states?

PC: Mmm-hmm-, no, eleven divisions or districts [overlapping voices] (RW-N: Oh yes, okay) throughout the country. And I know that we were-, there were Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia, but I can't remember what other states. Because I went to Kentucky, University of Kentucky. Then I went to Crystal City, Virginia; went to Richmond.

RW-N: So you were on that for quite awhile, working with that?

PC: Quite a while, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: And did you stay in the educational system in any other way after you retired?

PC: I, I was on the Board of Education.

RW-N: How did-, tell us about that. How did that come about?

PC: Well, my friends started saying, "Pearl, why don't you run for the Board?" And I'm thinking, "I, I don't know about that."

RW-N: Now were you retired then?

PC: Yes. So, then in the meantime, a friend of mine was running and it's not a very comfortable feeling, you know, to run against a friend. So I said, "I don't think so." Then two years later, my friends again said, "Why don't you run for the Board?" And in the meantime, the president of the Board called and said, "Why don't you run for the Board? We would love to have you." And I said, "Well, maybe I will." And I ran and I really, really won big. Thoroughly enjoyed it. (RW-N: How long were you on it?) Just, just once – four years.

RW-N: One four year term.

PC: Because by this time, I was getting old and I wasn't driving. I never did drive any distance. And, you know, the president has to be ready to go. You have to go out here, you have to go over there.

RW-N: You became president?

PC: I would have been. (RW-N: Oh, you would have been.) (AB: If you had stayed.) It was my turn. Yeah, to be president.

RW-N: Yes, and so you didn't want to take that on?

PC: No, I didn't want to take that on.

AB: And how did you find the service on the Board? The Kanawha County Board of Education is extraordinarily contentious. Did you find any of that here?

PC: No, there had been, before I got on board. But we, we had a great time. Four guys, I was the second woman in Greenbrier history, the first black. And uh, we just had a good time traveling. We covered the state, interviewing for a superintendent, shortly after I became on the Board, became a member.

RW-N: So you, you were instrumental in hiring a new superintendent?

PC: A new superintendent, yeah, that was exciting. And he was from here, White Sulphur.

RW-N: And who, who would that have been?

PC: His name was Gordon Hanson from Huntington.

RW-N: Hanson? (PC: Uh-huh.) Uh-huh.

AB: So you found that to be a good experience?

PC: Yes, yes.

AB: No racial tensions during that time?

PC: No.

AB: Uh, could we back up to the, to the integration of the schools? I seem to remember that Willard Brown (PC: Yes.) with the NAACP was here.

PC: I was asking you about the Cooleys. Willard was married to Juanita.

AB: Juanita? Yeah. (PC: Uh-huh.) Yeah, of course, I didn't know her name was Cooley, but I knew Juanita.

PC: Who is-, okay, well, it wasn't Cooley. But she's, she's a niece (AB: She's from this area.) and she grew up with them, as if she were a daughter, (AB: Yes) you know. Because her parents were killed in Montgomery. I guess she was in college there; I can't remember.

RW-N: Killed how? Accident?

PC: Car. Mmm-hmm.

AB: So Willard came and tried some cases or something here? (PC: Yes.) Do you recall that? (PC: Yes, I do.) How did that come about?

PC: That was after, you see, remember I said the Board declared all schools integrated, shortly after the decision. But then the riot came.

AB: Now tell me about the riot.

RW-N: You say the decision, you mean the Brown? (PC: the Brown versus…mm-hmm) The Brown decision? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) And so the Board said okay, "We're going to integrate."

PC: The Board said, "Okay, we're going to integrate."

RW-N: And then somebody said no.

PC: This was in September now and then this-, remember I said I thought they came mostly from Virginia. (AB: Mmm-hmm.) But a huge turnout over at the park, where the children-, in memorial park. [It is likely that this refers to something PS had already conveyed off-tape.]

AB: In Lewisburg?

PC: Here.

AB: Oh, here in White Sulphur. (PC: It was here.) Mmm-hmm. (PC: Uh-huh.)

RW-N: To fight integration? (PC: Yes.) And you think a lot of them were out-of-state people?

PC: I-, we, we really felt that way. (RW-N: You really felt that way.) Nobody seemed to have recognized anybody or many of them. So the Board backed off. And it went back to the segregated schools.

RW-N: What, what was that fuss all about? I mean, they came and. . .

PC: Integration.

RW-N: I mean, did they, what did, what did they do? March and just make a ruckus in general?

PC: And chanted, yes. Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: And how, how long did that go on, or did the Board back off quickly?

PC: Couple of days, I think. They backed off quickly.

RW-N: Quickly. (PB: Yeah) And how did people-, how did local people feel about that?

PC: Well, I think the whites were very pleased that, you know, that they backed off. Because they weren't ready either.

RW-N: And how about the black people?

PC: They...probably were relieved, you know. Because, you know, nobody knew what was going to happen. And the riot sort of set a tone. (RW-N: Yes)You know, maybe they don't want us. It was not maybe. Maybe they don't want us ...[PC later emphasized: they did NOT want us]

RW-N: Did you feel that way, too? Were you relieved yourself?

PC: I don't know that I was. (RW-N: You wou...) I guess I was angry. Because I, we felt that they didn't want us to integrate.

AB: Was there any violence?

PC: No, no real violence. Just. . .

AB: Just card uh, uh sign-carrying and . . .

PC: Yes. And a lot of noise, right. No, no, no violence.

AB: So, no broken windows or fighting (PC: No, none of that.) or anything like that?

PC: No, none of that.

RW-N: So the Board backed off. And then what happened?

PC: Then we went back to separate schools. But I was still at Bolling, so I had no reason to change.

RW-N: You mean, when the riot happened, integration had really started?

PC: It was started in, because it was early . . . (RW-N: It was September. . .) . . . it was September.

RW-N: Okay. So everybody fell back in … (PC: Right, to where they were…) to the old way again.

PC: Mmm-hmm. Now, so there were seven, I think, children who refused to go back, back to Bolling, I guess. And a lady called, Pandora Pettis, took them to D.C.

RW-N: What was her name?

PC: Pandora Pettis,

RW-N: Pattis?

PC: Pettis, P-e-t-t-i-s. And uh. . .

AB: So let me see if I understand. Uh, when the Supreme Court decision was announced, the Board of Education here in this county immediately moved to desegregate the schools, and some black children had been accepted in white schools? (PC: Right.) Then this, whatever this thing was occurred, and people came in and the Board of Education backed away from (PC: Right.) integration. And the children who already had been accepted pulled out and went to Washington to stay.

PC: Right. They were not going back to the all-black school.

AB: They didn't want to go back to the all-black school?

PC: No.

RW-N: And then these seven children . . .(PC: I think there was seven.) who did not go back—something like that —(PC: Mmm-hmm.) they went with Mrs. Pettis?

PC: Pettis to D.C. (RW-N: To. . .) She had-, I don't know whether she owned this house or rented it or what. (RW-N: To go to school there you mean?) To go to school there.

RW-N: Oh, in integrated schools? (PC: Yes.) And then what happened in the town after that? What happened here?

PC: Well, things went peacefully since everybody was back where you belonged. And so you see how long it took to actually integrate.

RW-N: But what was the court case about then?

PC: It was trying to force them to, to re-integrate. That was the court case.

AB: Willard Brown was with the NAACP. I guess. . .(PC: They were the ones who brought the case.) statewide. (PC: Yes.)

RW-N: And that was not effective?

PC: No. Not for several years later. (faint chuckle)

RW-N: Uh-huh. So then that's, that's what you described to us yesterday, about how Bolling sort of disappeared by attrition. (PC: Mmm-hmm) Um, some left, some went here, there. But kids gradually then did go into the white schools? (PC: Yes.) And they were. . .

PC: After real integration.

RW-N: Did-, was-, did that ever happen like on a declared day, from now on..., (PC: I don't even remember.) or did the children just drift in and they just accepted them? How did that work?

PC: You know, I don't really remember. They just drifted in. Because most of the ones at Bolling went to Lewisburg, Lewisburg High.

AB: You used the term "real integration." What do you mean by that?

PC: Meaning the second time that it was declared.

AB: So after the court cases, then there was another declaration? (PC: Mmm-mmm) You said, by the Board of Education, saying that we are going to do this.

PC: We're going to integrate. (AB: Ahuh.) (RW-N: Okay)

AB : And it was at that point that the kids began to go into the other schools?

PC: Go to the other schools.

RW-N: So the court case legally was successful in that the Board said, "Integrate?"

PC: Finally, yes, I guess it was.

RW-N: Had a lot of time passed? Or a year or two or. . . ?

PC: Well, it was more than a year or two because it was. . .

RW-N: And then it gradually happened after that? (PC: Mmm-hmm.)

AB: Was there more resistance in White Sulphur than in other places? What was going on in Ronceverte. say?

PC: Nothing.

AB: The black kids continued to come down to Bolling? (PC: to come to Bolling.) From Ronceverte and other places.

PC: Mmm-hmm. But then now after it was announced the second time, they, they went to Ronceverte.

AB: Mmm-hmm. What about Pocohontas County? Did you receive any kids down here from Marlinton?

PC: Yes, yes.

AB: Who came to go to high school (PC: Uh-huh, yes.) cause I guess they had the 8th grade up there.

PC: Right, they, they had no high school. Uh-huh. They had uh. . .

AB: We had some come to Huntington, too.

PC: Did you really?

AB: Mmm-hmm.

PC: Because I think some of them have ties with Huntington. . .up that way.

RW-N: Well, tell me about this town. Uh, something you said yesterday, but we never got to talk more about it, was that sort of on the surface . . .

PC: Yes, it appears to be...great.

RW-N: It was one big great big family.

PC: One big family.

RW-N: But underneath?

PC: That's not the true feelings, you know, as I said. And you can see it in the fact that no blacks work anywhere except at the Greenbrier.

RW-N: Even today?

PC: Even today. My uh, my daughter applied at the bank, and "Well, we'll get back to her. We'll get back to her." The Leftwiches—you don't know any Leftwiches in Huntington, do you? (AB: No.)

RW-N: What is that name now? Leftwich? (PC: Leftwich.) Yes. Okay.

PC: Two beautiful daughters. So their dad was pretty good friends with the president. He said, "Now I've got my two girls coming out of high school in the next year or so, and I want you to find a place for them." "Oh, just send them down, send them down." They never got a job.

RW-N: Now this is the bank you're talking about?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm. They never got a job. So I think the NAACP had a talk with them, I'm not sure.

AB: Well, now, in the days when you were growing up, uh, was there a restaurant or anything like that in town for black people? If people were passing through— (PC: in the back door) I remember driving through here years ago.

PC: You could go in the back door on Main Street, or, there was an excellent restaurant down next to the Baptist Church. Delicious [food]. And all the teams from State would stop there. Everybody who had ever known anybody who'd stopped here, went there. The food was delicious.

AB: Was that a black restaurant?

PC: That was a black restaurant; it was called Haywood's Place.

RW-N: Could you ever go into any white restaurants?

PC: In the back door.

RW-N: In the back door. But sit at the seat or . . .

PC: In the back, the back room. In the back room.

RW-N: Oh, in a special room? (PC: Mmm-hmm.)

AB: And there was no place to spend the night here for black people?

PC: No. No. Haywoods finally bought a little place out in the country which had a couple of rooms, I guess.

AB: And in general, though, uh, was there name calling or anything like that? I mean, did you get jostled on the street corners (PC: now and then) or anything like that?

PC: Now and then, now and then.

AB: What about buying property or getting a loan to buy property or anything like that? Was there, was there a problem with anything like that?

PC: No, because. . . I don't think so. I don't think so. My father bought the property down the street where we built our house. And of course, we bought the land. But if you knew somebody, you didn't have any problem, and, Mr. Cabell was-, I guess was the mayor at the time he bought it. And he had no problem.

RW-N: Would you spell that name?

PC: C-a-b-e-l-l.

AB: What about medical and dental care or so, or hospitalization? What-, where did you go to the dentist?

PC: Here.

AB: White dentist?

PC: Mmm-hmm, white dentist.

AB: Always?

PC: Always.

AB: And there was never any problem? (PC: No.) Uh, physicians, did you have a white physician?

PC: Yeah.

AB: And no problem?

PC: No problem. Except with my-, with Ann's son, Julian, who-, had chicken pox or something and he needed a shot, and he would not allow the white doctor to give the shot; he wanted a black doctor. (chuckle) So he said to Julian, the father, "What are you going to do?" He said, "I guess you'll have to do it." So he gave Julian the needle and showed him what to do. And he gave Julian, gave Julian the shot. He did not want a white doctor. (chuckling)

AB: What about if one had to be hospitalized up here, where did you go?

PC: To Ronceverte or to Clifton Forge. That was a C & O hospital. That's where my children were born.

RW-N: That's Virginia, right? (PC: Uh-huh.) But a few miles from here (PC: Right). Yes.

AB: What about cemeteries and burial?

PC: Separate.

AB: In a separate cemetery? (PC: Mmm-hmm.) What is the name of the black cemetery?

PC: Uh, this one is Brown, the one across the track where my parents are buried. And there's another one called Green Hill, I think, which is up at the other, other direction.

RW-N: Are the cemeteries integrated now, at all?

PC: Not really, not here. We, we have a plot in Lewisburg. (RW-N: Uh-huh) Excuse me, I guess it's in a suburb of Lewisburg. It's Rosewood, and uh...

RW-N: That is integrated?

PC: That's integrated. (RW-N: Completely?) Yeah, I guess. (RW-N: Not just by section, yeah.) (PC: No)

RW-N: How about when you went to Clifton Forge to have your babies? Was that integrated?

PC: That's a yes and a no. You know, instead of being sent to the maternity ward, where the white babies were, Bobby was in the room with me. They just brought a crib in the room.

RW-N: And the white mothers weren't doing this?

PC: No, no. Their, their babies were up in the ward.

RW-N: And you were in a room with white women?

PC: No, Heavens no! No, no, no. (chuckling)

RW-N: So you were by yourself? (PC: Yes.) Or other black women. And the baby would come in and stay with you.

PC: Right, he stayed in, he was there in the room.

RW-N: Bobby is Robert, right? (PC: Yes.) Okay.

AB: When we were talking about the school and you, you talked about the racial disturbance that occurred at the school when the team was all black and the cheerleader—the head cheerleader was black—I've found that really interesting because in most places you didn't find black cheerleaders. How did it happen that White Sulphur Springs had a black cheerleader?

PC: The children have more sense than the adults. So they're the ones that chose the cheerleader, (RW-N: Oh.) you know. And uh, now the first year we went to East, we had a black drum major.

AB: But obviously, if they had this black cheerleader, somebody didn't like it.

PC: The parents, I'm sure.

AB: The parents. (PC: I'm sure.) So you think that's what was behind that. . .

PC: I think that's what was behind it, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: But you never had problems yourself with parents in the classroom, (PC: No.) thinking that you weren't a good enough teacher (PC: No, no!) or anything.

PC: Heaven's no, it was just the opposite.

RW-N: Uh-huh. Why do you think that was true?

PC: I don't know. Because I had a genuine interest in their children, I guess. And for some reason, children could find me sometimes scary. (chuckle) The things they'd tell you, you know. And so I stayed after school to listen to some of them. I went early to listen to some. And uh, but. . .and when they found out what I was about, I was a very hard teacher. And I taught my classes as if they were my children. I wanted them to be the best. So that's what white parents want. And if you have something they want, they will be, really be nice to you. So, and I think that's why I had no trouble. They knew I had their children's interests at heart.

RW-N: Were you a good teacher?

PC: I, I think so. I think so. I like to think that I was.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. What, um, . . .you, you told us that from the time you were a little girl, you wanted to be a teacher. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) You talked about the teachers having nice shoes. (PC: Yes.) That just stayed with you all-, kind of through your childhood (PC: Yes, it did.) that you thought you'd like to be a teacher?

PC: Yeah, I want to be a teacher so I can have some tough shoes. (RW-N: Uh-huh) (laughing)

RW-N: Were you ever aware that you wanted to be a teacher because you liked kids, or did you just like. . . ?

PC: No, no, I just. . . just the thought. . . . Well, I liked teaching.

RW-N: You did like teaching? Yes.

PC: Yeah, because I had a little orange crate (RW-N: Right.) that was my desk. So I. . .

RW-N: When you were a kid, you were, you were the teacher...when you were playing.

PC: Yes, yes, right, in the neighborhood. (RW-N: Yes, yes, so that, that role...) So I guess it just sort of grew on me. Mmm-hmm.

AB: As you, in your years of teaching, did you notice any changes begin to occur with the children with whom you worked?

PC: Oh, yes. That's why I retired. (AB: Really?) They, they became so lazy. And as I said, I was a hard teacher. They wanted-, they needed to know what they needed to know, especially to go to college. So I just-, I really was hard on 'em; I intended to be. But then they started—and, and even though they jokingly complained, they were not serious—"Oh, my goodness, you are hard!" But in the spring, they would always say, "Shew! We're really glad we had you though." But anyway, they started complaining every day. And I was so tired of having to defend my job. [PC imitates students' complaints.] "You can't. . . isn't there an easier way to do this? Do we have to do it this way? Miss So-and-So doesn't make her students do this. I don't understand this." Well, in fact, one year I had a black child—and the blacks really stayed away from me. And I had very, very few blacks in those early years at East, because they always-, they all said, "Don't go to her, 'cause she's really hard." So I had this child enrolled. And she came in the very first day with this little slip of paper. I said, "What's this?" She said, "I need you to sign it." "What is it?" She said, "I'm getting out of your class." I said, "You haven't been in it!" "I know, but you're too hard and I know I can't pass." So I said, "Well, you'll just have to get out some other way. I'm not going to sign it." The next couple of days the assistant principal was there. "Pssst," he said, "you have to sign this signature, this thing, because this child is worrying

me to death." I said, "Now, if you want to take her out, you can. I am not going to sign." At the end of the semester she said, "Oh, thank you, thank you for not letting me out." She said, "I have had so much fun, and I've learned so much." You know, I encouraged them to laugh and I did all kinds of silly stuff to make them laugh. But at the same time, they knew that when I said, "Okay, time to settle down now," and they did. You don't do that now.

RW-N: So you didn't have any discipline problems?

PC: No! No, no, no. And one, one day, uh, every now and then, you know, they have all these gripes, complaint, everything is wrong. That's usually when they don't have their homework, too. So they came in, "Oh, did you-, you'll never know what old Miss So-and-So did." I said, "What do you want me to do? Go in and smack her?" Well, everybody had a complaint. I said, "Go ahead, get it off your chest. So, okay, is that it? So now we'll get down to work." So this great big guy said, "I just have one more complaint." "What is it and hurry up!" He said, "One thing I don't understand is why you English teachers have us doing all that diaphragming." (laughter)

AB: You said that's the reason?

PC: That's the reason! So the whole class roared; of course, I guess he was the only one that didn't know what diaphragming was. (laughter)

AB: Did you find that the black kids after integration, did they have a hard time with, or an easy time with integration? How did that go, do you think?

PC: I guess they had a hard time. You know, as I said, I had prepared mine. And uh. . .

RW-N: When you say "mine", you mean your own children?

PC: My own children. And uh, and Bobby was in sports, so, so that sort of takes care of itself. But he was abused, too.

AB: When you say "abused," what do you mean?

PC: In, well, in. . .they had a black-, like the cheerleaders, they elected a black captain. Well, he couldn't call the plays. And he couldn't escort the queen on Homecoming. You know, that had to be done by one of the white guys.

RW-N: You mean he was the captain but. . . (PC: Mmm-hmm, but he could not escort. . .). . .but they didn't allow him to do certain things.

PC: No, no, no. Or neither did they allow the quarterback to call the plays. One of the white players had to do that. So, you know, that—but they didn't tell us and he never complained, and I never knew any of this until he was out of high school. But I had said to my daughter, who was much younger, when she started in the integrated school, then Bobby and I said, "Now, Vickie, what is your name?" "My name is Vickie." "Now, you're gonna be called names when you go to the new school. Do not answer. Don't stop. Don't act as if you have any idea that they're talking to you. What is your name?" We went over and over and over. "My name is Vickie. Don't answer to anything else". And it worked. Until. . .she had decided she was going to marry this white guy in her class, but he didn't know it yet. (chuckling) (AB: How old was she?) She was six. So, but in the meantime, I guess he was sort of liking her a little bit, too, because they had a new student. And he said to the new student, "This is Vickie, this is my friend, Vickie." So he said, "Well, ain't she a nigger?" He said, "Yeah, she's a nigger." So Vickie told me that, and I said, "Vickie, he's still your boyfriend?" And she said, "Didn't you tell me ignore them if they said that?" So that was a lesson well taught, I guess. [light laughter]

RW-N: When you were a child—I'm interested in hearing more about how you dealt with your kids about racism—but when you were a child coming up, what, what did your-, what did you hear in your home from your parents? Anything?

PC: Nothing.

RW-N: How did you find out about the world?

PC: I just went out in it.

RW-N: And how did your mother and father deal with the days that you might have come home with hurt feelings or. . .

PC: I didn't. You know, we never-, never shared that or never complained. We just-, I guess that's what we expected.

RW-N: And we're talking about what, maybe some name-calling? (PC: Name calling.) Stuff like that?

PC: Pushing you off the street, you know.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. Did you ever push back?

PC: No! No. (chuckles)

RW-N: Did your brothers. . .(PC: Yes.) push back?

PC: And they threw rocks. It was a lot of rock throwing from them.

AB: And what did your-, did your parents know about that, and did they say anything to them about it?

PC: No, they just said, "You better be careful throwing those rocks, 'cause you might hurt somebody or you might get hurt." But it was no big thing, not an issue.

RW-N: Now, didn't you mention to me once that you had heard of some lynchings up here at one time?

AB: Yeah, but I'd like to get that on the other tape because it's going to take longer. (RW-N: Okay.) What about working as domestics here? Did, did black people work in the homes of people in White Sulphur?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm. Now I worked for, for two summers I worked for General Hines. You ever heard of him? (AB: No.) John Hines was a general.

AB: H-i-n-e-s-?

PC: Uh-huh, with, with General Pershing. (AB: Uh-huh) And they had, well, this was his home. They had a home built just outside of town. So I worked out there in the summers, two summers, I did. And Mrs. Hines was from Atlanta. Now I'm a sophomore in college. So she read to me every day. (chuckle) I guess I wasn't supposed to be able to read. She. .(laughing) knew I was in college, but I don't think it ever got through. But after lunch and we'd clean up the dishes and everything, "Come in, Perial, [distorted "Pearl"], I'm gonn to read to ya." She, she didn't hear well, so she talked very loud, you know. (chuckles)

AB: What was it that she read?

PC: Well, this day she read. . . .

END OF TAPE 2 - SIDE 2 BEGIN TAPE 3 - SIDE 1

RW-N: Mrs. Carter, would you repeat that, the end of that story, because I think we've lost it on changing these tapes. You said that Mrs. Hines would read to you. (PC: Every day.) And what was she reading this one day?

PC: On this one day she was reading, I think it was called The Wind, but it's by a black man, and his name is Countee, Coontee, Cullen. (AB and PC laugh) [PC apparently referring to Countee Cullen]

RW-N: Well, that was kind of interesting when I, you know, when I try to envision her. She was-, she didn't need to do that clearly; you were in college. (PC: Yes.) But there was some way in which she was reaching out, too—maybe inappropriately.

PC: I think so, but it didn't bother me. (RW-N: Yeah) You know, I think she just knew—she assumed—that because I was black, I couldn't read and needed some help. . . you know. Some culture.

RW-N: And she was reading to you from a black writer.

PC: On this particular day.

RW-N: On that particular day. Yes, right.

PC: They weren't always black writers.

RW-N: So you-, so the people, the women around here, many of them, worked in private homes too. (PC: Mmm-hmm, hmm-mmm.) Um. give me some sense, if you will, of the degree to which you were aware of—can I call it racism?

PC: Yeah.

RW-N: You haven't used that word (PC: No) so I don't wanna put-, but it sounds to me like that's what was going on—how you felt about that when you were growing up, when you became aware of it and what your response to that was.

PC: As I said with our parents, they just sort of accepted things as they were. And we didn't think of it in terms of racism. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) It was just the way things were. And it

wasn't until I suppose when I left for college that I realized that in some places things were different. (AB: Better?) Better than, than here. But you know, with this on-the-surface good relationship thing, we never—other than from children like us [our age], who threw rocks and pushed us off the walk and called names—we didn't really feel it from other than. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm) I went to, this time I went to—I was working for the minister at Emmanuel, working for his wife—and they sent me down to Kroger to get eggs for breakfast. And I stood there in line and people came and went and I'm still standing. So I said, "I'm, I've been here for ages and you've just looked over me." He said, "I bet you better get back there in line where yo belong." I said, "Thank you very much." So I went back and told the lady why I had been so long. And I said, "Could I borrow your typewriter?" I couldn't type. But she said, "Yes, you can." And I told her; she was-, of course, she was outraged. So I wrote to Kroger. And in a week or so, there was this person at my mother's, and "Does Pearl Swann live here?" "Yes, she does." And, "Well, where could I find her?" And she told. So I answered the door at the parsonage when he came. "You're Pearl Swann?" I said, "Yes, I am." "You wrote that letter?" "Yes, I did." So he said, "Well, I promise you it will never happen again." And it didn't. And Mr. Mooney and I became just like really good friends.

AB: Who was Mooney?

PC: He was the manager of Krogers. He's the one who told me to get back in line where I belong. (chuckling) So, so you know, it was here.

AB: Well, again, looking at the picture of your niece's marrying a white fellow, and she's dressed up with a bridal dress and veil and all, where did they get married?

PC: Up at St. James.

AB: Here in Lewisburg?

PC: Here in White Sulphur.

AB: I mean, in White Sulphur. What about his family?

PC: His sister came, his aunt came, his brother came from Phoenix. So I guess there were the three of them.

AB: Mmm-hmm. What about parents?

PC: The mother did not accept that too well. And it was only just before she died that she woke up and decided it was okay. (AB: So do…) They lived in Bingington—it's hard for me [to say], Bingington, New York (AB: Bingington, New York), mmm-mmm.

AB: So the children are accepted by uh, the white part of the family? (PC: Yes, yes.) And they have a visiting relationship?

PC: Visiting relationship, and they visit once a year in the summer.

RW-N: Well, how do you feel about that? And, and I'm recalling, too, that when you said you went to work in the high school that some of the, some of the students then were dating across race. How. . . (AB: interracial)

PC: I think it's a very personal thing. And I, I have nothing against it, you know, it's fine with me. It's like choosing a dress. If you want a black dress, fine; if you want a white one, buy it. And I think that's one of the things that we have a right to decide for ourselves. You know, not because of color or whatever. I think for awhile it was a fad-, you know and just, just because it was something new. But now I think things have settled down and there is a real relationship. But it's, it's fine with me.

AB: Do you have white friends?

PC: Yes. In fact, all of my friends are white.

AB: Are, are they visiting-back-and-forth friends (PC: Yes) or just people that you see on the street?

PC: No, they're visiting, and they supported me all during my husband's illness. They're the ones who took me to the hospital and back and to the nursing home. I have a son who is white and, and came to Maryland to get us.

RW-N: Now you, you put your hands up, (PC: because he's white) to put quotation marks around . . . (PC: Yes, he's, he's) so he's not your biological son.

PC: No, no, he's white. He's younger than Bobby. And for some reason, he just sort of adopted us when, when he first started teaching. And he, he's from here but he lives on campus at East now. So, he takes me shopping; he, he does whatever I need to be done. And uh the first year that Father became sick (RW-N: You're talking about your husband now?) Yes. We went to New York for three weeks. Bobby always comes home in July. And he said, "Oh, Mother, come and go back with us." "Well, maybe we will." Because a nephew was going to be married in early August. And I said, "Well, we could ride back with them, with the girls; they were coming to the wedding." Well, in the meantime, he gets sick. So there I am with only sleeveless tops and cotton shorts-, or pants. So November came he was still in the hospital. So Mike called and said, "What about clothes? You have winter clothes up there?" (AB: This is a white fellow?) Yes. I said, "No, I don't." He said, "Well, I can pick you up next week." And I said, "Oh, I can't, I can't go next week because he's still in the hospital." So he said, "Well, just let me know when you're ready to come." So it was-, I think the week of Veteran's Day that he came all the way to

New York, picked me up and I had a day and a half to pack. Then he took me back to Vickie's. And my granddaughter came down to pick me up.

AB: How did you meet this young man?

PC: I guess I knew him here off-hand. And I never taught him, so. . . But you know in a small school you know everybody, whether you speak to them or not. And he remembered me from here. And he just decided that he liked us. And began calling us Mother and Father. And at that time his mother was living, but she was sick, sickly. And when he took her shopping, he took me shopping, also. He visited often. And uh we just became real close, so when Father became sick in February, Vickie said, "Mom, you're going to have to call Mike." And uh, so we caught him before the school day started, and I said, "Father's not doing well." He said, "Well, I could pick him up Thursday;" this was Tuesday. And I said, "Okay." But he must have heard the distress in my voice; he said, "Unless you want to come right away." I said, "I do." He said, "I'll leave right after school." So he was there a little after eight. And he and Vickie had a time getting him out, they couldn't lift him. So he fell and they just dragged him out on the rug. The only way they could get him up. He was just that sick. So we went straight to ER. You don't think they kept him, do you? Sent him home. And uh, I went to my sister's because everything was cut off here, the water was off, the heat. So uh, but then the nurse was one of my students too. She said, "I'm going to call down there and tell them they have to take him. And I don't want you to even think you can take care of him. He's going to a nursing home." One of that kind of bossy students. (PC and AB chuckling) And uh, so we had to take him back, of course. And they finally admitted him. And she told them, she said, "I want him sent to a nursing home. She cannot take care of him." In the week that he was there, they made arrangements to send him here.

AB: So you have gotten good support from your white friends in this community?

PC: Yes, yes!

AB: What about black friends? I don't get the sense that there are many black people here.

PC: My, my friends are my family.

AB: Your family? (PC: Mm-hmm.) Your black friends. (PS: My black friends.) But your white friends are spread larger. (PC: Yes, uh-huh) We were talking earlier about the Greenbrier lynchings. What do you remember about that?

PC: I remember going downtown, and everything was so hush-hush. "Did you hear about it?" [PC whispering] And I said, "What in the world is happening?" So finally it came out that this man had been lynched. And uh, he was from Leslie. And there had been a fight. There was always a fight out there, every weekend. And this policeman, I, I think, was killed. So you know, you know what happens then; kill one, you get killed. (AB: mmm-hmm) So, they had him in the jail in Lewisburg and they dragged him out and his teeth were scattered all along the route that they had dragged him. And uh, it happened just outside of Lewisburg on a little knoll. And, of course, the men who did it bragged about it quite openly. So everybody knew, you know, exactly who had done it.

RW-N: When was this? Approximately?

PC: Oh, I don't know. I was like eight or nine, I guess.

RW-N: You were eight or nine or something like that? (PC: I think, yes.) Mmm-hmm.

PC: Enough to be scared to death. To know what a lynching really was. So that was so awful.

AB: Was there any Klan activity here?

PC: Oh, yes. Not openly, again. But you knew it was there.

AB: How did you know?

PC: I don't know. I think people again boasted about it. Especially after the lynching they did.

AB: Did the Klan parade or anything like that?

PC: No. But there were burnings. (AB: Like cross burnings?) Like cross burnings at times. And. .

[tape off/on]

RW-N: Fairlea school?

PC: The junior high.

RW-N: The junior high school. And um—hold on for a minute, please.

AB: Uh, do you-, did you all feel-, or any anger about racism as you experienced it growing up? How do you...

PC: Not really.

AB: As you look back on that time now, how do you feel about it?

PC: Angry. . .now. But at that time, it was just status quo, it was what. . . it was just the way we thought it was supposed to be. Just accepted that.

RW-N: Did you ever participate in any of the civil rights organizations?

PC: No, no. I belong to the NAACP, but never in a. . . any...

RW-N: But you belong to it, though, as a member?

PC: Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: Was it very active up here?

PC: It was during the trials, (RW-N: Yes) the case that was brought. [the case was tried there]

RW-N: Do you think that, that uh life is better for black people after the civil rights movement?

PC: I don't see that much difference. We, we. . . there are mostly young people here now and I don't know them. And uh, so I don't think they even care. I'm not sure.

RW-N: Mostly young people. . . You're talking about. . .

PC: The blacks are mostly young people. And I have no idea who they are.

AB: Why are they here?

PC: That's a good question.

AB: Did they come to work at the Greenbrier?

PC: I don't think they do. I don't know why they're here. But uh . . ..

RW-N: But you don't see much progress for black people. . .

PC: No, I don't.

RW-N: . . .in terms of getting into colleges easily (PC: No, no. . .) or getting jobs more easily. I'm not talking about just here, I'm talking about in general.

PC: I know. No, I don't. No.

AB: You spent your whole life here in White Sulphur Springs. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) Why did you stay?

PC: I guess I just liked it, in spite of. . . . And it's a good place to raise children. I told you about having fourteen one summer. All of my sisters sent their children here in the summer. And uh the sister from Cleveland, the sister in New York. And they came, and then the whole families came. But it was a good place for children. And it still is. Children and the very old. (AB: Mmm-hmm.) If you're just satisfied to sit on the porch and swing, this is the place to be. (soft chuckles) But if you want to be into something, if you're looking for entertainment, you have to go somewhere else.

AB: Now when, when you were growing up with two brothers, did you feel that your parents treated the girls any differently from the way they treated the boys?

PC: No, not my parents.

AB: Did the boys have chores that they had to do?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm. Not always so willingly, but they did them. (soft chuckle)

RW-N: What kinds of things did they do?

PC: They would have to bring in the coal and the wood. We had a coal stove. I told you we bathed in front of it. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.) And uh, they had to feed the chickens. I guess that's about all.

RW-N: And what were the girls in the family doing?

PC: Washing dishes; that was about it.

AB: Who did the laundry?

PC: Mother.

AB: Mother, on a scrub board.

PC: On a scrub board. We only got a washing machine, again, after I started teaching.

RW-N: And how about the cooking?

PC: Mother.

RW-N: Did you help at all?

PC: No. Mother did not like us to help her cook because she didn't measure anything, and...you know, she just thought. . .

RW-N: She just knew how to do it.

PC: No, she, but, but, my sister, Ann, baby Ann, is the only one who was allowed in the kitchen. Because she knew immediately what a little pinch of this was, and a little pinch of that. I used to take her to Hines' to make desserts. They thought she was helping me with the dishes. But uh, she's an excellent cook. And she learned, stood on a little box, stood right there beside Mother. (chuckles) But she would not let us in there: "No, it's too much." But she knew what a little pinch of salt was, a little dash of sugar. "Well, Mother, how much is that?" "Never mind, never mind."

RW-N: Have you thought much about um...how being a woman, rather than a man, has been important in your life? How opportunities might be different for men, more for men, or more for women?

PC: I don't know; that's a good question. But I'm glad that I am a woman, because women are stronger than men. (RW-N: How so?) They, they don't let things force them to bow their heads and just give up, or just say, "Oh, well, it's not worth it." You know, I guess I'm a fighter, in a sense. Not enough to go out and stage a protest, or march for anything. But I, I don't believe in taking things lying down. To do something about it, not to have a fight. But to try to get it straight. And that's one reason I went on the Board. Not as a racial thing, but the fact that there were many things that teachers had to worry about, and the Board had no idea what was going on. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.) You know, a lot of it, when I was in school, all the Board members were farmers. They didn't know anything about operating the schools. (RW-N: Yes.) So I was there to express their concerns. And uh. . . .

RW-N: You seem to me, uh, to be… somewhat mild mannered in how, you know, how you talk, and measured, but you're also describing yourself as someone who, at some points, stands up for what they believe in.

PC: Right, right. I don't scream and I don't use profanity. But I do get the message across. (RW-N: Uh-huh.)

AB: With so many females in your family, both sisters and nieces and what-not, have any of them, as far as you know, taken strong women's kinds of positions, involved with the women's movement and those kinds of things?

PC: I don't, I don't think so.

AB: And how about you? Were you at all in tune with any of the things that women have talked about, in terms of salaries and women's rights and so on?

PC: Only through women's clubs and organizations, with the AAUW, I was. [American Association of University Women] And only through those avenues have I really been tuned in on women's rights and injustices and all that kind of thing.

RW-N: So you've heard some of that talk in those organizations? (PC: Oh, yes, yes.) And have any of those organizations done anything about it?

PC: In some measure they have. (RW-N: Like uh…) You know, they'd send some money. That's always easy. (RW-N: To another women's organization or …) To another organization or to a, to the national organization. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm)

AB: Well, your sister became the mayor of White Sulphur Springs. Could you talk a little bit about that?

PC: That was really funny. She was, uh, I was on the town council when I ran for the Board. So you have to give up your membership on the council if you're going to run for an elected office. So I gave mine up, but I asked that they take her in my place. They did, and she ran in the next election and won. And she finally became recorder. And then the uh, the mayor, at that time, was out of town in Oklahoma or somewhere, for the greater part of the year. And she actually took over as mayor because the recorder is the next person in line. So a lot of people said, "Well, Barbara, why don't you run for mayor?" She said, "What?" "Why don't you run?" "Maybe I will." She did and really won big. But then she was a much better mayor than anybody expected her to be, which meant "there's no favoritism here." And you'll have to follow the same rules that everybody else did. So she wasn't too popular after awhile. And that's why she was not re-elected. She was an excellent mayor, on top of everything. And uh, she really had a big part to play in the Tuckahoe [sp. correct?] Dam. Because while she was recorder, she and the conservation department had talked about a dam up here, because this place is in a flood, flood plain. So that was quite an accomplishment.

AB: Now you spoke about being on the town council. Tell us about that. When did you go on the town council?

PC: Shortly after I retired.

AB: Mmm-hmm, and how did that happen?

PC: Somebody again asked me.

AB: Was that an elected position?

PC: Yes.

AB: So you ran for that?

PC: I ran for that. But I think it was—I had to be appointed to something, maybe senior activities or something, on the council. (AB: Mmm-hmm) And then I, I was elected.

RW-N: Why do you think people are asking you to run for these offices? What do you think they saw in you?

PC: I have no idea, other than a concern.

RW-N: Do you see yourself as a leader?

PC: No.

RW-N: But yet you've been in leadership roles?

PC: I have, right.

RW-N: But even today you don't see yourself as a leader, especially?

PC: No, not especially.

AB: How long did you serve on the town council?

PC: Maybe five years. I was into my second term.

AB: When you left it to go (PC: when I left it to Barbara) on the Board of Education. (PC: Mmm-hmm.)

AB: How did your husband feel about your doing those things? Did he encourage you or ...?

PC: No; but you know he thought it was okay.

AB: He didn't try to stop you (PC: It was no big thing.) or anything?

PC: Oh, no, no. But he would always say, "Now I don't want you in any argument." You know, he did not like any ugliness. (AB: Mmm-hmm) He always said, "I don't want you to get in any arguments."

RW-N: Did you get in arguments?

PC: No, never, never. I didn't have any problems.

RW-N: How did that happen, though? If someone is confronting you with something, do you step back from it? How do you. . .

PC: No! I just face it head on. But as I said, I don't do it screaming and cursing. I just. . .

RW-N: Uh-huh, so you think then that people are more accepting of that, and so it doesn't lead to bad arguments?

PC: I think so.

AB: During the time that you were teaching, were you a member of the West Virginia Teacher's Association? (PC: Yes, mmm-hmm.) Were you a part of the Black Teacher's Association? (PC: the black, yeah, mmm-hmm.) And then . . .

PC: Then I became (AB: WVEA) a member of WVEA.

AB: How did you find those memberships?

PC: Quite different.

AB: In what way?

PC: Well, the uh, there was great camaraderie, I guess, in the black one. And we had great meetings, good times. It was a good time to see everybody, to talk, you know, about what had happened during the past year. And uh going to WVEA was more of a chore than anything else. So I remember being on the train. We had been to Charleston to the black. . .I'm trying to remember if they met at the same time; I'm not sure. But anyway, a black porter asked if he could sit next to me. I said, "Sure." And uh, so he said, "Would you like a cup of coffee?" "Yes, I would." And he went back and got us coffee and so he said, "I tell you, this train is full of teachers and you can spot 'em a mile off! They're a pain!" [laughter] I told my family, "If I ever

look like a teacher, I'm gonna retire the next day." So I always tried not to. Because I don't think teachers have to look like teachers, the way they did then. And I used to tell my students that, "Don't feel that when you get sixty, you have to buy big-bosomed dress and wear grandmother heels. [laughter]

RW-N: You mentioned before that you see-, that you were glad you were a woman because you see women as stronger. (PC: Yeah.) Uh, what happens to men that they're not stronger?

PC: They, they give up too easily, you know.

RW-N: They give up too easily.

PC: My-, when my husband became sick, it was just this, you know, no fight. We would say, "Father, walk a little bit, just walk through the house," and when we were with my son, he said, "Now Daddy, I want Mother to tell me you walked through here twice today." He would not, he refused. And "drink this, you know, drink your juice." "I don't want it." And he just, he just gave in to what was happening to him. There was no fight in him. But you know, women just, they just refuse to give in and give up.

RW-N: Do you see white women that way, too?

PC: Yes, I do. Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: Do you think that uh—I want to ask you something that, that I've read and that I frequently have asked women we've interviewed. Uh, I have read black women writers who say that black women have a tougher time in life because they have to deal with racism and they have to deal with sexism, that they're not treated fairly in either case. Do you agree with that?

PC: For the most part, yes. But it doesn't have to keep you down. You know, you can move on in spite of. You can say, "I'm not going to give in to that. I'm gonna-, I have this in mind to do and I'm gonna do it."

RW-N: Do you think that life is harder for black women than for black men?

PC: No, I think it's harder now for black men.

RW-N: How so?

PC: They really have a rough time. Because they have created an image that has everybody afraid. And it's not a-, it is not a correct or an accurate image, how black children like anybody else dress, according to the fad, they look like somebody in the Hood with their pants hanging down below their rears and their hair uncombed or braided and that frightens people.

RW-N: So when you say "they" have created an image, who do you mean by...they?

PC: The young blacks.

RW-N: That they have done it? (PC: Black men. Mmm-hmm.) That they're responsible for that?

PC: In a sense, yes. But it isn't an accurate gauge. Because some of these young men with, with braided hair are very nice people. Some of them are very intelligent. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.) And uh, so it isn't. . . then, then there's the peer pressure. It happened with my nephew, who's fourteen. He wants to grow a Fro. And his mother said, "Absolutely not!" (RW-N: A Fro?) An Afro. (RW-N: mmm-hmm) And she said, "Absolutely not. You're going to get your hair cut every two weeks," and she keeps it cut. There's a picture of him; not the most recent one. Keeps it cut short. And he's not allowed to wear the baggy pants.

RW-N: So you think that uh right now black (PC: Black men are having a rough. . .) males are having a tough time (PC: . . .rough time.) because, because an incorrect image has been created.

PC: Yes, and even in schools, they, they're not supposed to be intelligent. And my grandson, you know, has-, he had one of my students one year when he went here. And she really gave him a rough time. Now I like the rough time, but let it be fair. Because I gave my students a rough time. And I wanted him to do things right and I wanted him-, don't give him anything. But she really-, I really think it was because he was smart and he was not supposed to be that smart and to know all the answers. And I think-, I don't know whether [she was] intimidated by it or what. But our black men are having a rough time.

RW-N: Let me ask you this. Do you think that, I mean, it strikes me that one of the reasons why black-, life must be tough for black men is that they're not-, they don't have a lot of opportunity for good jobs. (PC: That's true.) But did they create that? Or. . .

PC: In a sense, yes.

RW-N: In a sense because of what the images...

PC: In a sense and then I think integration, too, can be blamed for that, which is not good and it doesn't make that much sense.

RW-N: Integration of the schools?

PC: Yes. Because they lost their status, I think. You know. And in between they're sort of meshed in. And they're not stars any more, you know. And I think they just gave up, gave in.

AB: You uh, when we were talking about the school the year that the riot occurred, you said that the football team was largely black. (PC: Mmm-hmm.) Were black kids doing other things in the schools, such as being on student government or being in plays or anything like that?

PC: In, in the black schools. Our school had no gym or anything, but I had little one-act plays in the classroom.

AB: What about after integration?

PC: Yes.

AB: They continued to have those kinds of opportunities?

PC: They continued. Yes, uh-huh.

RW-N: In athletics?

PC: Well, even in other things. (RW-N: in other things) In drama.

AB: In other things.

PC: I have a nephew who was really—Barbara's son—was really big in drama at East. And even at West Virginia U. So uh. . . .

AB: So opportunities to participate were still there.

PC: Opportunities were still there, yes.

RW-N: What. . .tell me, if you will, what you see as the benefits and disadvantages of school integration?

PC: The benefits were the equipment and the facilities, better buildings, bigger things. . . .

END OF TAPE 3 - SIDE 1 BEGIN TAPE 3 - SIDE 2

RW-N: So the benefits were mostly material things? (PC: Yes.) Was there anything else you think that the black students benefited from, going into integrated schools?

PC: I think they lost. Because there was not that interest in—you know, in black schools you knew the families. And you know and you'd say, "Now, Robert, you know your mother wants you to do this. Your dad doesn't want you to do that." But, and then you could always say to

them, "You have to work so hard because you're gonna have to be better in order to get that job." And when I taught remedial class at the college over in Lewisburg, I had a boy who had graduated from Reston, Virginia, and that's supposed to be one of the best school systems in the country. He knew absolutely no grammar. He was completely lost. And, he. . .he wanted to use a lot of class time, focused on himself. And, but he would drag in late. Class would be a half hour into the work. So, I finally said, "It seems that you should know some of this." He said, "Well, I don't, and I graduated from the best-, one of the best schools in this country." And I said, "Isn't it strange that you haven't shown me anything?" So he said, "Well, I'll tell you one thing. I drive a limousine for the airport, to the airport, and I see these young executives getting off the planes. They're all white. They don't know any more than I do." I said, "How do you know?" "I know they don't, because I hear them talking." I said, "But do you also know this? That their parents could own the plane or own the company that owns the plane?" And I said, "When you leave here knowing very little, who's going to give you a job?" And that's, that's what our black children have lost, their ambition.

AB: This was a young black man that you were working with?

PC: Yes, right.

RW-N: So there was something else going on in the black schools that was . . .

PC: It was more intense. You know, you've got to learn. . . and they wanted to learn. Because most parents then were uneducated. And they wanted their children to stand tall. So they pushed them, they supported them, they threatened.

RW-N: Do you think-, were the teachers different in the black schools than in the integrated schools? (PC: Yes, yes.) Now I know there's a time lag there, because when you go back to

Bolling, you're talking about an earlier time (PC: Right.) than later. So I know that's hard to get around that. But putting that aside, do you see the teachers as different? The way teachers related to students?

PC: Yes, I do. They don't, they're not as caring.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. How about the younger black teachers? Is that true for them, too?

PC: We don't have any younger black teachers.

RW-N: So there's no comparison?

PC: No. We don't have any.

RW-N: So you say the teachers that you know today and they are white teachers, the younger ones, are not as caring?

PC: No. Because now they're sort of washed out. And with all the red tape that teachers have to go through, they don't really care that much.

RW-N: So it's not so much because they are white. (PC: It isn't a racial thing.) It's not a racial thing, (PC: No, no.) in your mind.

PC: I don't think so.

RW-N: Do you think years ago that the black teachers, in general, were good teachers?

PC: Yes. Very good teachers.

RW-N: Better than the white teachers at the time?

PC: I, I don't know. But I know they were very good teachers. I really can't say. . . .

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. Would you have. . . would you go back to segregated schools again, if you had a choice?

PC: No. You know, that's. . . you can't have everything. And in order to get anything, you have to give up something. So I'm still, I still can't decide whether we gave up too much and gained too little, or what. . . . But I do think that the down-hill process began with integration. And that sounds ungrateful maybe. You know, but the black students gave up a lot. And I guess to get a little. And it depended a lot on the homes they came from, because if they were pushed, they were heads and shoulders with the white students. But I haven't seen a black honor student at East forever. It's been years. And when we first went, every year there was at least one. (RW-N: Uh-huh.) But I don't see that any more. And I even look in the Gazette when they have the honor students throughout the state. I don't see any black ones. Maybe now and then there's one here...one there.

RW-N: Do you think that that's due to discrimination?

PC: I don't know. I, I really don't know.

RW-N: But what you're saying is that you-, that you're not sure about that, but that you think that . . .

PC: There has been a decline.

RW-N: A decline in . . .

PC: . . . in the type of students that our black children have become. (RW-N: Mmm-hmm.) And I, I'm not there, so I don't know.

RW-N: And do you think that's just because of the schools or do you think other things are going on?

PC: I think other things are going on because it's not East; it's around the state. I went to George Washington's commencement in the spring. I don't think I saw a black honor student.

RW-N: So what is going on?

PC: I-, that's a good question. Something is going on. And it's not good.

RW-N: But you're not sure that you could pinpoint it?

PC: No. I would have to be there in order to pinpoint it. There has been a decline.

RW-N: Have you gotten a lot of satisfaction out of being a teacher?

PC: Oh, yes.

RW-N: You'd be a teacher if you had to make the choice again?

PC: If I had-, if I were young, and I had to make the choice, I'd be right there. I enjoyed every single year.

RW-N: What was it, about it, that gave you that satisfaction?

PC: I think my students. You know, they were such lovable little varmints, I call them. (chuckling) And I just-, we just had great fun. And one of the nicest things that ever happened to me was one day-, and I had these two boys, two white boys who walked me to the car every day; they carried my books and whatever. And uh, so we were on the way to the car and one whose father was a mortician in Lewisburg said, "What are you going to be doing this evening?" And I said, "I don't know. Why?" He said, "Well, I thought I'd take you out to dinner." I said, "Oh, really?" "Yeah." So I said, "Great." I thought he was joking, of course. He called about five o'clock and he said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I'm on the couch, taking a nap." And he said, "Didn't I say I was going to take you out to dinner?" "You were serious?" He said, "Yes!" So he said, "I'll be there," and I'll say in twenty minutes, whatever. So he took me to Covington to Bonanza. And so a couple came in and recognized him. And uh, they said, "Oh, my goodness, did you know this was your parents' anniversary?" He said, "Yes, that's why I'm

here." He said, "My dad went over to spend the night with my mom," who was in nursing school at that time in Lynchburg maybe, I'm not sure. "And they gave me money to take my best girl out for dinner." (chuckles) So I was his best girl. And I thought that was really sweet.

RW-N: Do you have contact with any of your students or have you over the years?

PC: Oh, heavens, yes. Yes. They write me, they call me. And when I was running for the Board, they called their parents and said, "You'd better vote for her." And I got a letter from somebody from Rupert. And he said, "I just want to congratulate you for having won a seat on the Board." He said, "I would sit on my porch and watch the black students file by to catch the bus. And we were right next to our school almost and I thought, how ridiculous." And so he said, "I think it's great that Greenbrier County is finally making strides."

RW-N: Has integrated?

PC: Yes. So that was good, I thought.

RW-N: Does that-, did that come from a white person?

PC: Yes. Somebody I had never seen.

RW-N: When you say you have contacts with students, that sounds like it would be from black and white students?

PC: Yes. Yes. So they write me, they call me, they visit. So I do have contact, with many of them. One-, two of them came Sunday to see me. They have a book-, a Christian bookstore over at Fairlea. So somebody's always here [to see me].

AB: At Fairlea. That's down where the. . .

PC: Near Ronceverte.

AB: Where the, uh, fairgrounds are?

PC: Yes, mmm-hmm.

RW-N: If you had to give us five words that describe you, what would they be?

PC: Funny.

RW-N: Funny?

PC: I love to laugh. (RW-N: Uh-huh) And I love to make people laugh. Uh. . .I, I hesitate to use the word energetic with all this. (RW-N: But you, but you've been energetic.) But I'm energetic if there's a cause. So I have energy for that. Loving and caring. And religious, I think.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. You consider yourself a religious person?

PC: I. . . .I. . . quotes.

RW-N: Quotes.

PC: Yes. Because I try to treat people [unclear word] the way I want them to treat me, and I think that's what religion is all about. It's really a matter of relationship.

RW-N: So you're not talking about going to church?

PC: No, no, that doesn't. . . . I used to tell my students, "If you went into a chicken house and sat all day, you would never come out a chicken." So that's the same thing with going to church. It doesn't make you a Christian. It's, it's an every day thing.

RW-N: So you attend church? (PC: Yes.) Are you tied up with your church in any other activity ways or have you been?

PC: I team-teach, I team-teach a Sunday school class. And I sing in the choir.

RW-N: Uh-huh, even now?

PC: Even now. (RW-N: Okay.)

AB: Your church that you attend now is a largely white church? (PC: Yes.) Uh, what made you go to that church?

PC: Okay. They—it was Easter time, a long time ago—and they invited the choir from St. James to come and participate in their Easter pageant. Nobody went except me. (RW-N: Ohh.) And so when the pageant was over, they said, "Pearl, why don't you stay with us and sing in the choir every Sunday?" And I said, "Well, we have church every other Sunday." "Well, sing with us on the off Sundays." And I did. Then, we had this minister—I took all my nieces and nephews to church because my sisters worked. And I, I would take them all. So I had Ann's granddaughter. And the minister was praying or preaching, I can't remember what, but she kept saying, "I don't know what, he must be crazy. He keeps talking to God and he's not in Sunday School today." And I kept saying, "Shhhh." So he finally stopped and said, "Please stop that talking! This is a very sacred place." And he's looking at me. Here's the child over here. "And that is very disruptive. And if you have to talk, please go outside." So I sat there and I swole up for a while and I swolled up and I finally said to her, "Come on, [unclear but the child's name], let's go." So I was superintendent of the Sunday School. And I continued to go and teach my class.

AB: This was in the black church?

PC: Yes. And you know, be active in the Sunday School, but I didn't go to church. And so he said to me, "Well, are you going to be superintendent next year?" I said, "I don't see any reason why I shouldn't be." The next day I got a letter saying, "I have talked with the district superintendent, and he said if you don't come to church, you cannot be superintendent of the Sunday School." So I immediately called the superintendent and I said, "I need to have a conference with you." He said, "Come on over." I said, "Did you write to our minister and say

that I could not be superintendent because I don't come to church?" He said, "No, I haven't written him anything." And I said, "I don't go to church because he invited us out and I think it's a waste of time to sit in church all swollen up and mad." And he said, "Well, you're probably right." And I said, "So that's why I haven't been." He said, "No, there has been no correspondence between this office and your minister." So then I started going to Emmanuel every Sunday. And uh, but I didn't want to give up membership here. I still wanted to be a member of St. James. And so the same minister [stayed for several years. Barbara was treasurer.] So she couldn't make all the meetings because she had to work some nights. But she, she and the minister before that made up this form that was excellent. It was so-, everything was so well-presented. Well, this-, couldn't understand it so he said, "This is terrible. I can't find anything on here." So every official board meeting he was complaining about her. And she, she said, "Pearl, I'm gonna quit, I'm just gonna give up." I said, "You can't do that." So finally this night he just went on and on so I said, "Well, Barbara just resigned." She wasn't even there. (laughter) "She just resigned." So I called her and told her, I said, "You just resigned, so you're not treasurer any more." So she started going to Emmanuel and joined almost immediately, she and Greg, her younger son.

RW-N: Now this happened quite a while ago?

PC: Yes.

RW-N: So you've been with Emmanuel quite a long time?

PC: I've been to Emmanuel a long time. I don't even know how long.

AB: And you have been well-received there?

PC: Yes. Really well-received.

AB: Have other black people joined?

PC: No, we're the only ones.

AB: You're the only ones. And does the black church continue?

PC: Yes. Very small numbers, but they're there. They've had white ministers now. . .for the last several years. And they have enjoyed them; they've been good people.

AB: Mmm-hmm. As you look back on your life, how do you feel about it?

PC: I think I've had a good life. A very good life. And a good marriage, good family life, good support from my family, good teaching experiences. So I just-, I've had a good life. The world doesn't owe me anything. And there isn't anything that I've ever wanted to do that I haven't done. I don't know whether it's the Virgo that keeps me from wanting the sky. You know, I like being with people. I love people, I like having fun, I love to laugh and to make other people laugh. I love to feel that I have achieved something. And I have.

RW-N: What have you achieved?

PC: I've achieved motherhood. [Unclear and it appears only to be an aside, with PC and AB chuckling] But I think I've been a good mother. And at one time, my children thought I was the worst parent in the world, of course. Because my husband didn't like to discipline them because he did not like any, any confrontation at all. He didn't like to see them cry; it didn't matter to me if they cried for a week: "You cannot go." And uh, so they-, you know, I said, "I guess I'll have to die before you know what I'm trying to do." But uh so, Vickie and I just argued all the time. And Bobby was, "I'm so glad that I'm leaving here. And I probably won't even come home for Christmas." And I said, "Fine, that's okay." But it wasn't okay. And he was home the first weekend at State. And every other weekend that he could get a ride. And

after that, he had to call his dad if he needed to go to the bathroom. "Well, Dad, I thought I would do so and so. What do you think about that?" All of a sudden, we knew a little bit. Before that, "You are old! That's the way things used to be." (AB chuckling) So I, I have enjoyed a new relationship with my children. (RW-N: Yeah.) They love me to death and I love them right back, yeah.

RW-N: So, so despite those kind of tough times, (PC: Yes) you see yourself as being a mother and being a good mother.

PC: A good mother and having a good family. Yeah.

RW-N: And your other achievements?

PC: Just, I've just-, I hope I've been a good teacher and a good mother or a good church member, a good friend.

RW-N: And your community things, do they matter a lot to you?

PC: Not a lot.

RW-N: Not as much? (PC: No.) Have you ever had the feeling in your life that you wanted to do things to uplift the race? I'm kind of taking those words out of books that I've read.

PC: Not really, not really. Because I, I just feel like my shoulders are not that broad or I'm not strong enough to lift that weight. But I wish I could. I wish there was something that I could do to lift the race.

RW-N: Do you think you did it in little ways?

PC: I, I hope so. I hope I did.

RW-N: If you had to change one thing about yourself, what would you pick?

PC: I'd be younger.

RW-N: Uh-huh. (all chuckling)

AB: Do it all over again.

PC: Do it all over again.

AB: The same way?

PC: Mostly. Mostly the same way. I laugh and tell the children-, you know, I've laughed and Bobby says, "Mother, if there was a charge of child abuse when I was growing up, you would still be in jail!" I said, "And I would probably be going a second time." (laughing) I would not change anything.

RW-N: Could you change-, would you change anything that you've done? (PC: Oh, yes, I would.) What would you change?

PC: One of the things I would change is allowing them to speak. When we grew up, you did not have-, you had, you did not have the right to an opinion. You did not have the right to say, "But that's not true."

RW-N: And you think you brought your kids up that way?

PC: The same way. "Shut up!" (laughs)

RW-N: So if you had to go back, so you'd make that different, huh?

PC: Yes, I would.

RW-N: Even though you feel that you've worked it all out, but you'd make that different. (PC: I would.) Anything else that you would change?

PC: Not really, I don't think.

RW-N: Would you become a teacher?

PC: Yes!

RW-N: Would you marry the same guy?

PC: Yes! Yes, I would.

RW-N: And you'd stay in White Sulphur Springs because you've been. . . ?

PC: I'm not sure.

RW-N: Not sure about that.

PC: No. If, if I knew the second round what was really out there, I might not stay here. Because of, my children do have good lives, outside of White Sulphur.

RW-N: Uh-huh. So you see that now?

PC: Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: Who, who do you think, as you look back on your life, had the most influence in sort of shaping who you became?

PC: I think my dad did, but I don't know that he planned it that way.

RW-N: How did. . .how did he do that?

PC: He gave us so much pride. You know. We thought we were rich, remember I thought he owned the hotel. (AB laughing) And he made us feel that we were something! And he was so proud and he embarrassed my mother so much. "Come in here, Pearl." "Yes." "This is my youngest daughter [unclear words]. This is Pearl; she's my oldest. Now recite for them, Pearl." And I'd have these little silly . . . .

AB: This was at the uh hotel?

PC: No, wherever. It didn't matter where. (chuckles) And I'd have to recite something silly. And so I don't think he planned it that way, but he, he's the one who shaped my life.

RW-N: More than your mother?

PC: Yes.

RW-N: Because of the sense of self that he gave you? (PC: Yes.) Self-confidence, is that…?

PC: Yes. Right. Mother was, Mother was in the background. You know, she loved us and took good care of us. But she was not a pusher.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. What would you have changed about your father? If you could pick one thing you didn't like so much about your father?

PC: There wasn't anything I didn't like about him.

RW-N: How about your mother?

PC: I just wished she had had more drive and she were more in the forefront.

RW-N: And what did you like about your mother?

PC: I liked her as a mother. Fair. And my father was so fair.

RW-N: They were, they were both. . .

PC: They were both fair. Mmm-hmm.

RW-N: But you think your mother did a good job being a mother?

PC: A mother, yes. (RW-N: Meaning. . .) As it was defined in those days. . . (RW-N: Cooking and taking care of. . . ?)

PC: Right, yes. But she just didn't push us any, at any, toward any future.

RW-N: When you think of yourself—and I asked you before about giving me five words and you could do that pretty easily. So… you pretty much know who you are (PC: Mmm-hmm.). Uh, have you changed much over the years?

PC: I don't think so. I don't think I have. I've…I've changed, as I said, some of the things that I did as a mother, you know, some of my attitudes, some of the ways I've thought and felt.

RW-N: Have changed?

PC: Have changed.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. Have you become more uh, have you become lighter? more serious? more independent? dependent? happier? sadder?

PC: I've always been happy, like because I was so silly. (PC and AB laugh) But I just think that I've become more-, I don't like to say lenient, but more relaxed, I guess, in my thinking. (RW-N: There aren't so many...) Not so strict, not so many rules. (RW-N: There aren't so many tough rules.) Yes.

RW-N: Things are grayer, in turns of...

PC: Right, yes, right. And, and uh realizing that children are different, and not trying to bring both of them up the same way, (RW-N: Uh-huh) you know. So I think I have changed. Not a lot.

RW-N: When you look back on your life, if you can imagine it sort of being a road or a path, what would that path look like? Would it look like a very bumpy road? Would it look like a road that went up because it got better? Would it look up and down? Would it look. . . would you describe your life as chapters in a book? How would you describe that?

PC: Oh, that's , that's hard to say. It would be a sort of, not a bumpy road, not perfectly smooth, but not too bumpy either. Because as I said, I just think I've had a good life. And there isn't anything that I would want changed.

RW-N: Mmm-hmm. What are you gonna do now? I know this is really . ..

PC: Enjoy the children.

RW-N: Enjoy the children.

AB: Are you going to stay in White Sulphur?

PC: No. I'm going to live with them in the winter. And then I'll be here in the summer. I don't like being alone.

AB: Who takes care of your house?

PC: Barbara.

RW-N: You don't like being alone? (PC: No.) Living in the house alone?

PC: No. And I don't like being alone. When you come from seven, a family of seven, (RW-N: Yes, yes, uh-huh) and then you're surrounded by nieces, nephews, (RW-N: Right) anybody else's nieces, nephews, whoever, you know—even when the children left, well, "Mother will take you, Mother will take you." So I've always had somebody.

RW-N: Right. Well, how will you deal with that? You, you, you'll be here only in the summer, you think?

PC: Yes. I'm going the middle of November.

RW-N: And you imagine when you're here you'll be alone? (PC: Yes.) But you'll deal with it for the. . .

PC: For the time that I have to be here, right.

RW-N: For the time that you're here. Uh-huh. And then when-, where are you going to live the rest of the year?

PC: Between Rockville and Hempstead.

RW-N: With your children?

PC: Yes.

RW-N: Uh-huh.

AB: Do you have any plans to give up your home, take a smaller place maybe?

PC: No. The ladies of my church are trying to talk me into that, so they think that'll keep me here the year-round. They said, "Now, Pearl, we're widows." The church is filled with widows. This street is too. They said, "Now, what you need to do is sell that old big house and just buy a smaller one." And uh, but the truth is, that this house now belongs to Bobby. Because when Father went in the hospital for the first time, the social worker said, "Now, are you going to be able to pay these bills?" And I'm thinking, "Oh, my goodness, whew, it must be a fortune." So I said first thing, "I've got to get rid of the property." So I called one of my students again, and I said, "We have to transfer the property real quick." So I had this deeded to Bobby and the one down the street to Vickie. But you know, I didn't pay a cent on his hospital bill. Not even a doctor bill. I would get a bill from a doctor, send the check, and the check would come back, "This bill has already been paid."

RW-N: Insurance has paid, paid for the illness.

PC: Yes, right. So with all the illness he's had, I have not had to. . . .

RW-N: Well, when you-, you'll spend a good time away from White Sulphur Springs, and yet this is the place where you belonged to the church for a long time (PC: Yes.) and your organizations. Will you drop out of those things?

PC: I had to while he was sick. I belonged to the Ruitans.

RW-N: To the...excuse me.

PC: The Ruitans..which is...

AB: R-u-r-i-t-a-n-s.

PC: Uh-huh. I call that the Farmer's Rotary. (PC and AB chuckling)

RW-N: Is that what that is, the Farmer's Rotary club? (PC and AB laugh) Is that a man's club?

PC: Yes, it was founded by …

RW-N: Is that a man-women's club…both?

PC: No, it's uh… (RW-N: both?) Both. Men and women.

RW-N: Men and women. So you've had to drop some those things even now?

PC: I had to drop them. I had to give up my place on the library board.

RW-N: Was your husband sick a long time?

PC: Three or four years.

RW-N: Uh-huh. So you've gradually had to give some…

PC: So I was under house arrest even when he wasn't in the hospital, uh-huh.

RW-N: Right, right. And then when you go to visit your son and daughter, what will keep you busy in those places?

PC: Oh, my goodness, everything! I go to my daughter-in-law's church. I love it. It's Presbyterian. Great choirs, great congregations, very friendly people. And then my son works with the best guys in the world. And uh, a real diverse…

RW-N: So you feel connected to them a little bit to them already (PC: Yes, oh yes!) because you have visited, uh-huh.

PC: Visited. And, you know, they call me Momma. I'm either Mom or Granny to them. And uh, so I love being there. They come often to visit.

RW-N: So some of what you're doing is not completely strange because there's been times when you have visited …

PC: Oh, yes!

RW-N: But that's what those-, that's what the next years will be that you're planning for?

PC: Yeah, right.

AB: You've spoken of being in the choir. Uh, music is important to you?

PC: Yes, it is. All kinds of music.

AB: Did you take music lessons at all?

PC: No, no money. (chuckle)

AB: Did you sing in the choir when you were at State?

PC: No.

AB: Just in church choirs?

PC: Just in church choirs.

RW-N: You know, you've often said, " I couldn't do that because I didn't have the money" or "Too poor." Do you feel restricted by that today?

PC: No. I'm still poor but I'm not restricted. I do what I want to do.

RW-N: You have enough money to do what you want to do?

PC: What I want to do.

RW-N: Uh-huh. You don't have to (PC: have a lot of money) to...worry every day? (PC: No, no.) And you don't have to have a lot of money to be happy, right?

PC: No you don't. As I said, it could be the Virgo in me, I don't have to have designer furniture and clothes. I just like to look nice. I like to be comfortable. I like to eat well. I like to have a clean bed. Never mind the house. (laughter) But you know, that's, that's not a lot. But that's what it takes to make me happy.

RW-N: Yeah. Have you uh-, are there things that we should have been discussing that somehow haven't come up in conversation?

PC: I don't think so. I don't-, I'll probably think of something when you leave. But I don't really think so.

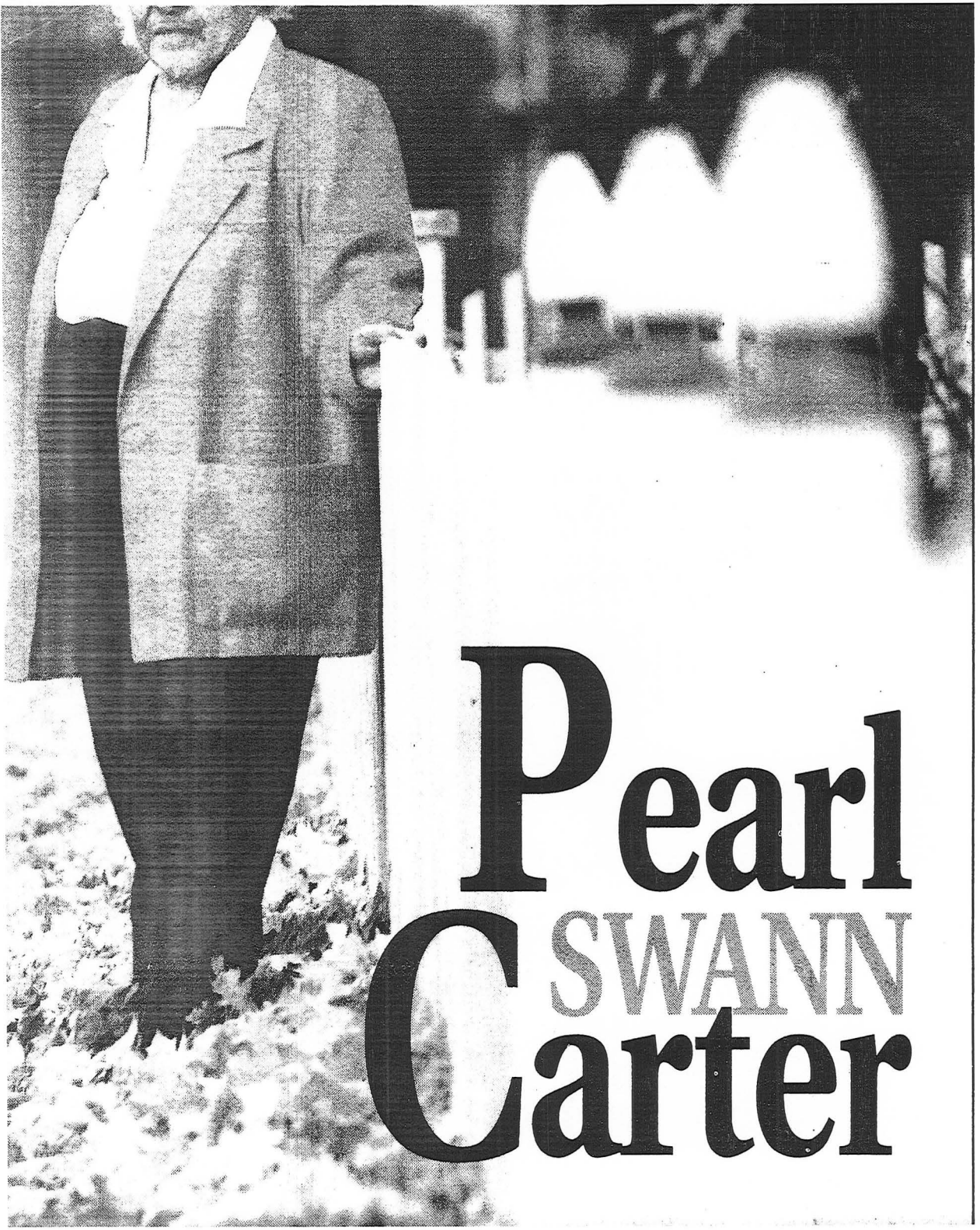
RW-N: Because otherwise, we'll probably end here, unless there's something else. I think we've, we've kind of picked your brains a lot. (PC and RW-N chuckle) But there's nothing for you. . . you're comfortable?

PC: Uh-huh. I have to tell you my snake story, whether it's on or off the tape.

RW-N: Okay...well, a little bit [of tape is left]. I'll let the tape run out. (chuckle)

PC: Okay, well, we were having lunch at East and there was this great commotion in the cafeteria. (RW-N: At the school, East?) At the school. Wow! What's going on? But everybody was eating, so nobody wanted to get up to see. I was near the door, so I just cracked the door to see, and I said, "What's going on?" "There's a snake in here. There was a snake in here". So I tipped back and finished my lunch. But in a few minutes it was my turn to go on and do lunch duty. So as soon as I walked in, this boy was walking toward the window and the students were doing this. I said, "Come here." "Yes, ma'am." I said, "Don't create another panic in this cafeteria." He said, "Oh, no, Ma'am, I won't." So I thought, I don't even know this child. I didn't mind barking at my students, but I didn't know this one, so I said, maybe I'd better be a little nice to him. I said, "Did you see the snake?" He said, "Yes, ma'am." I said, "What kind was it?" He said, "Black." I said, "WHAT!" He said, [timid voice] "Colored." (all laughing)

END OF INTERVIEWS



Pearl SWANN Carter

- **Birthday:** August 24, 1919
- **Family:** husband, the late Robert Carter; two children, Bobby, Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.; Vicki, Rockville, Md.; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild
- **Church affiliation:** Emmanuel United Methodist Church
- **Education:** Bethune Elementary School, White Sulphur Springs; Bolling High School, Lewisburg; West Virginia State College, degree in education
- **Professional experience:** English instructor, Bolling High School, White Sulphur High School, Greenbrier East High School (total of 38 years)
- **Professional/civic organizations:** member of initial board of trustees, White Sulphur Public Library; past president, Lewisburg branch, American Association of University Women; Senior Friends; first black member, Greenbrier County Board of Education; former member, board of directors, Greenbrier County Hospice; White Sulphur Springs Woman's Club; appointed to the Appalachian Education Laboratory, covering 11 states, by the State Department of Education.
- **Awards/honors:** Selected to first all-state Board of Education; recipient, Mary L. Williams Award, Delegate Assembly. WVEA; White Sulphur Lions Citizen of Year; Celebrate Women Award in education category; represented Lewisburg Branch, AAUW at centennial celebration in Boston.
- **Hobbies:** reading, traveling
- **Philosophy in life:** "Be honest and always do things right."

My daddy instilled in me that I was as important as anyone else — no matter what the color of my skin was," Pearl
er said of James Swann, the role
life.
Swanns," said Carter, pulling herdly as she recalled her father's
asis on bringing credit to the famough sterling character and hard
as a proud aristocrat with no

etired Greenbrier County educaranddaughter of a slave, has
rough life with a steadfast Chrisd an ultra-positive attitude.
of worth which James Swann
to his family can be traced to his
Carter maintains.
father was a wedding gift to his
n he was 12 years old ," the softr explained. "She taught him to
te and that was against the law
She also taught him to cook and

emancipation came, they set him
led. "He lived outside Leesburg
ame a Methodist minister."
bitterness," said Carter, in reandfather. "That's what Daddy
He never let us be bitter. He
that stuff to God."

■■■

k on her childhood, Carter said,
ve much but we were blessed."
of seven children, she grew up on
n Harper Heights, a residential
Greenbrier.
meet all of the trains," she said
a bellman at the resort. "We
ned it," she said, describing the
long hours her father spent working there.

"He was so outgoing," said Carter of her father. "He really bragged on me."

According to Carter, it was her mother, Annie, who created fun activities for the family.

She explained that the closets in the Swann's two-bedroom home had curtains rather than doors.

"Mother would pretend they were stage curtains. We were Hawaiians and we would dance. She would dance, too."

■■■

Carter attended Bethune Elementary School, which sat high on a hill overlooking her hometown.

Intent on achieving a higher education, Carter, along with 13 other students from White Sulphur and Caldwell, decided to enroll at Bolling High School 9 miles away in Lewisburg.

"It was small and it was away from home," recalls Carter. "You would have thought it was in Charleston.

"We'd walk every day," she said, stressing there were no school buses for black students in her teen-age years.

"It was great fun," she said, looking back at the long trek to school. "It took us two hours each way. We'd walk in the snow and throw snowballs. We were celebrities. People would stand in their windows and wait for us to come by."

Of Bolling High, Carter said, "There were no frills. We had no gym or band, but it got us through."

Her high school days culminated with graduation exercises at James Wesley United Methodist Church.

■■■

Carter credits Margaret Prescott

See **CARTER, 2C**

Story by Debbie Schwarz Simpson ◆ Photos by Lew Whitener

THE JOURNAL

of the

GREENBRIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JOHN STUART'S LETTER TO HIS DAUGHTER
A CENTURY OF MAZE FAMILY LAND CLAIMS
ALBERT G. WILLIAMS OF DUO
THE BOLLING SCHOOL
PROFESSOR EDWARD A. BOLLING
WILL BOOK I: APPRAISEMENTS
RECENT ARCHIVES ACQUISITIONS

Volume V, Number 6 *1992*

ISSN 1064-0711

bert Gallatin, 6 August 1831-21 November 1904
orge Washington, 1833-1911
njamin Franklin, 1835
lliam Kenneth, 1837
omas M., 1838
ary B., 1841
hn David, 1843
mes Harry or Harvey, 1845
ife: Martha Allen (1831-1902), married November 22,

len S. or L., 1849-1935

allatin Williams, born August 6, 1831-died November
vas married twice and fathered eight children. Six of
n survived at the time of his death.

fe: Nancy Donally, daughter of John and Isabelle
) Donnally (born ———/ died April 4, 1862), married
1, 1854
mes Bryson, 20 October 1854-1886, died of measles
ther Judson, 18 November 1856-November 1921, mar-
nie J. Patterson
n Bolivar, 19 November 1861 of Savannah, Greenbrier

ife: Elizabeth Adeline Donally (born June 6, 1831-died
—, 1908), daughter of James and Hannah (Dunbar)
married January 1, 1863 at Maysville, Greenbrier

ra Bell, June 7, 1864-1934, married Robert Earl

abeth Jane ("Jennie"), March 25, 1866, married the
am M. Dye
ses A., August 2, 1868-March 31, 1870
nas Marion, July 16, 1871, married Dora E. Moody
ard Elmore, June 10, 1875, married Lillian M. Wright

incomplete genealogy of Albert Gallatin Williams.
d here to demonstrate A.G. Williams' place in a fami-
al interest to the Greenbrier area and as notes for
who might prepare a comprehensive genealogy.

THE BOLLING SCHOOL

by Pearl Swann Carter

It is almost impossible to trace the early beginnings of schools for Negroes in the (Greenbrier) county. However, it is known that a school for negroes was conducted in a Masonic Hall which was purchased for this purpose in 1869.

Earl Charles Clay, *The Negro In Greenbrier County, West Virginia—A Social, Economic, and Educational Study, 1946,* page 112.

That deed, recorded in Greenbrier County Deed Book 25 at Page 616, reads in part:

THIS DEED, made this 7th day of April in the year 1869, between Joel McPherson, William R. Stuart, Sr., James P. Watts, Archibald Lewis, Richard Thomas, Robert R. Dennis and Charles N. Austin trustees for...the Greenbrier Lodge No. 19 in Lewisburg, West Virginia...and Albert G. Williams, Alexander Walker, and Carloo A.L. Perry, composing the Board of Education of the Township of Lewisburg, West Virginia...for the sum of Three Hundred and fifty dollars...do bargain sell and grant...for the purpose of a free school for colored children in the said town of Lewisburg...the south corner of lot No. 21...a stone building known as the Mason Lodge...The portion of said Lot No. 21, on which said stone building is situated...running back forty feet with the line of the Bell Tavern lot...being the same lot or parcel of land, with the said building and appurtenances conveyed to said Lodge No. 49 by Ann Weir, Elizabeth Matthews, Mason Matthews and Thomas Matthews on the 31st day of December 1852.

The signatures on this deed were witnessed by Oliver P. Hoover, Mayor of the corporation of Lewisburg and ex-officio Justice of the Township of Lewisburg.

Many of the Board of Education records that would provide a factual basis for writing a history of the Bolling School have been lost or discarded over the years. Here, based on sketchy public records and alumni and faculty recollections, especially the recollection of Pearl Swann Carter, a member of the first graduating class of 1936, and a faculty member for twenty-two years, is the story of the Bolling High School, in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

The earliest record at the county office of the Greenbrier County Board of Education indicates that Edward A. Bolling, with Janie Hayes as assistant, was appointed to the Lewisburg Colored

chool, in 1890. A family history states that Mr. Bolling was first ppointed to this position, in 1877. In 1894, Josephine Jackson placed Janie Hayes as assistant.

In 1896, Mr. Bolling's salary was listed at $50 per month and he new assistant, Etta Hamilton's salary was $25 per month. By 897, the faculty had increased to three with the addition of Eliza . Gardner, who became Mrs. Eliza Bolling by her marriage to dward A. Bolling, listed in *Greenbrier County Marriages*, Volume B as 24 November 1897. In 1898, Annie Herron replaced Eliza ardner Bolling, and earned a salary of $45 per month. Mrs. Bollg was hired as a substitute teacher. The students at Lewisburg olored School totaled 180, with 113 between the ages of 6-16, nd 67 between the ages of 16-21.

Later additions to the faculty included Jennie Freeland (1900), annie James (1900), Janie Woodson (1902), Willie Carter (1904), annie Johnson (1904), Mary Curry (1906), F.V. Woodson (1906), ennie Jackson (1909), and Andrew Robinson (1911).

Professor Bolling continued as principal for grades primer rough eight until the late 1920s when Earl Smith, a graduate Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, was hired for grades 7, 8, d 9. Grades 7, 8, and 9 comprised Lewisburg Colored Junior gh School. Professor Bolling was now principal for grades 1 rough 6, the position which he held until his death on August , 1932. It should be noted that during his tenure as principal was both principal and teacher.

A few students from White Sulphur Springs and Ronceverte nd room and board in Lewisburg or commuted in order to atd the ninth grade at Bolling School, since it was the only one he area for Negroes. Prior to this time and even during this e, Negro students had to go to Bluefield, Institute, or Harpers ry for any schooling beyond eighth grade. All these were boardschools.

n the fall of 1932, Earl Charles Clay became the new principal rades one through nine. Mr. Clay had previously been a teacher Villiamsburg.

ourteen students from White Sulphur and Caldwell, determino further their education, walked to Lewisburg Colored Junior h School. They were later joined by others from Ronceverte Lincoln. (Today's community of Lincoln was known then by name of Brushy Ridge.)

r. Clay and Mrs. Anna Garrison Jackson were the only hers. It was an exciting year, and enthusiasm grew so that Board of Education was asked to provide transportation for

Negro students who wanted to attend the Lewisburg school.

On August 2, 1933, the board authorized the superintendent to advertise for a bus to transfer "colored" students and outline routes. Mr. Clay was asked to place the necessary teachers in Lewisburg Junior High and Graded School. Alonzo Branche was hired for junior high. John Mayo transported students from White Sulphur Springs in his own bus, and the board paid for the gas.

In the fall of 1933, Mr. Clay asked, and was granted, permission to change the name of the school to Bolling Junior High and Elementary.

In the summer of 1934, transportation routes for "colored" students were established. The entire county would now be served. Students from Alderson, Anjean, Marfrance, Muddy Creek Mountain, Rainelle, Renick, and Rupert were brought to Bolling. The communities of Union and Gap Mills, in Monroe County, also sent students to Bolling. Bolling was the *one* black school.

Alex Brown was appointed to the junior high school. The elementary faculty included Mary Cabell, Margaret Coleman, and Callye Jackson. The superintendent was authorized to secure approval of the State Board of Education to build a two-room addition to the junior high in order to provide a four-year high school for colored youth.

In June 1935, a twelfth grade was added to the existing tenth and eleventh grades to complete four years of senior high school. Armenta Freeman (Haynes) and Frank Wingfield joined the faculty. Alex Brown was appointed principal of Christopher Payne (colored) Elementary School, in Ronceverte.

On May 20, 1936, fourteen graduates became the first alumni of Bolling High School. Commencement exercises were held at John Wesley Methodist Church, in Lewisburg.

As time passed, enrollment increased, the faculty gradually grew, and the basic, no-frill, college preparatory curriculum expanded. A class in music appreciation, an a capella glee club, and school chorus provided the only musical training. A small kitchen with a range and one sewing machine was considered an adequate facility for the Home Economics Department. There were no gym or typing classes, no stage, and no space for assemblies. The football field was a rocky pasture adjoining the school. The basketball team practiced and played at Lewisburg High School. The football team surprised—even shocked—the entire state by becoming state champions, in 1939.

The Bolling High School building was destroyed by fire in late 1939 or early 1940 (according to D[illegible]

of Secondary Education in Greenbrier County; the fire occurred in the spring of 1939. Writing in 1940, Gaudino reported that *Records of the County Board of Education* showed that the Board immediately ordered a new structure to be erected, with an expected occupancy date in the fall of 1941). While the Bolling High School was under construction, the students attended classes at John Wesley Methodist and Mt. Tabor Baptist churches. Indoor plumbing was installed as the building was restored. A long awaited gymnasium was completed in, I believe, 1950. Student labor helped build the gymnasium. A tiny room on the third floor housed six or eight typewriters, which were a thrill for students and faculty. Across the hall another small room was "called" the library.

The Bolling High School continued to flourish. It sent a large number of its graduates to college until school desegregation gave students in the western end of the county the privilege of attending schools in their respective communities. Many of these students had been required to walk as far as four miles from their homes to catch the school bus to ride to Bolling High School. Students in the eastern end of the county also had the privilege of attending their local, formerly all-white, high schools, but a few parents in Lewisburg were reluctant to send their children to the formerly all-white school. In the school term 1962-1963, thirteen (13) students remained at Bolling High. The high school faculty was reassigned at the end of that year, and only a small number of elementary students remained for another year. Thus ended a proud history and a great heritage!

Bolling High School Graduates

From the first graduation class, in 1936, until the last, in 1961, twenty-five classes were graduated from Bolling High School.

According to Harriet Olive Kelly (Williams), '36, the first graduating class "never had a class over us." Mrs. Williams remembers that in the fall of 1932, her class entered the ninth grade; in the fall of 1933, the tenth grade; in the fall of 1934, the eleventh grade; and in the school term 1935-1936, they were seniors in the twelfth grade.

"We were seniors for four years," Mrs. Williams said. "We were freshman seniors, sophomore seniors, junior seniors, and senior seniors."

Mrs. Williams remembers that thirty-six students entered the ninth grade, in 1932, and of those, fourteen formed the first

graduation class of Bolling High School, in 1936. The program for that first graduation ceremony lists the following graduates, faculty and officials.

Class of 1936

*Hortense Madeline Black
Byron Beverley Clark
*Myrtle May Cooley (married a Dunn)
Clarence Edward Fagans
*Harriet Olive Kelly (married a Williams)
Martin Stuart Moore
Frances Rayburn Moore
*Carl W. Renick (now The Reverend)
Mary Josephine Ross
*Mattye Carolyn Seams
*Pearl Elizabeth Swann (married Carter; author of this article)
Augustus William Taylor
Mary Ada Williams (Robinson)
Ementha Magdaline Lancraft

Faculty for Class of 1936

Earl C. Clay, Principal
Anna G. Jackson
Alonzo E. Branche
Armenta F. Haynes
Frank J. Wingfield

*Members of Bolling School Alumni Association in 1992

Greenbrier County Board of Education, 1936

W.E. Scott, county school superintendent
F.E. Finks, president of board of education
R.J. Walkup, member
J. Frank Nash, member
W.E. Burns, member
James W. Knight, member
Herbert M. Harr, assistant superintendent

Graduating Classes, 1937-1946

(From Earl C. Clay. op. cit., pp. 114-116)

Class of 1937 (7)

Beatrice Allen
Reena Douglas
Clara L. Galloway
Catherine Haynes
Carolyn Page
Andrew M. Robinson, Jr.
Retta Watkins

Class of 1938 (18)

Lucille Allen
William Barbour
Homer Brown
Edna Carter
Albert Cousins
Augustus Cousins
Alice H. Dickerson
Earley Farley
Galonza Holmes
Helen Johnson
Branda Jordan
Doretta Logan
Ernest Mitchell
Hazel Payne

ames Renick
elma Simms
rances Swift
dith Scott

Class of 1939 (9)
obert Chandler
orman Crump
iola Green
lene Jordan
lenry Leftwich
largaret Logan
lark Mullens
phelia Simms
rances Swann

Class of 1940 (13)
lazel Allen
ourtney Freeman
harles Hamilton
lenry C. Jefferson
irginia Mitchell
omanz Mosley
ucille Mosley
lara Pondexter
ames Smith
eorge Waddy
harles Wade
ames Watkins
oy Woodson

Class of 1941 (11)
ustine Breckinridge
eanie Clark
Nova Joe Cooley
Mildred Cousins
Thurmond Freeman
Joseph Harris
Pauline Hopkins
Ann Jordan
Alice M. Keene
Leroy Miller
Eddie Wallace

Class of 1942 (16)
Thomas Allen
Geraldine C. Banks
Bessie B. Barbour
James H. Childress
Julian A. Cooley
Elsworth Crawford
Raymond R. Crawford
Rachel C. Eubanks
Estella Marshall
Forest Nalley
Mary Perkins
William Rose
Evelyn E. Scales
Robert Smith
Samuel A. Strain
Lucy A. Thompson

Class of 1943 (21)
Florence W. Askew
James W. Banks
Roberta A. Boone
Charles Brinkley
William G. Crawford
Clara Mae Hall
Vera L. Humphrey
Ruth P. Jordan
Lucille Lacy
Virginia C. Logan
Charles H. Massey
Agnes R. Miller
William S. Mitchell
Dora E. Parsons
Hannah V. Perkins
Roland M. Robinson
Cleo Mae Solomon
John E. Swann
Morgan G. Wallace
Thomas D. Wallace
Galonza W. Young

Class of 1944 (20)
Geraldine H. Allen
Mattie H. Boone

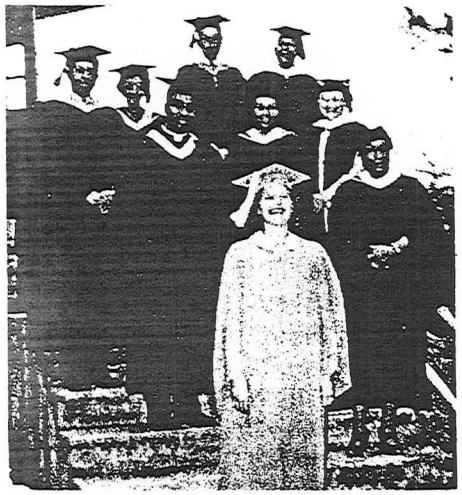
William A. Boone
William A. Brown, Jr.
Edley H. Clark
Dorothy M. Carter
Frances B. Fleming
Bessie M. Hartford
Albert J. Jones, Jr.
Sarah M. Kelley
Vivian E. Lacy
Mary L. Ligons
Daisy T. Lucas
Evelyn A. Matthews
Ada B. Medley
Thelma L. Mitchell
Doris L. Mosley
Vivian V. Murray
Mary E. Seams
Lillian H. Williamson

Class of 1945 (11)
Eugene M. Baker
Albert Benjamin
Evangeline E. Brinkley
Floyd E. Carter
Owens T. Childress
Clarence M. Davis
Samuel Dixon, Jr.
Gloria J. Grant
Gloria S. Kenney
Charles Mitchell
Julian B. Young

Class of 1946 (22)
Lawrence Brown
Lillye Chambers
Lloyd Clark
Jane Dunlap
James Garrison
James Griffith
Clara Hollinghead
Philip Johnson
Roosevelt Johnson
Edith Lacy
Virginia Lacy
Audrey Mathews
Esther Medley
Lavette Miller
Loraine Miller
Thomas Mosley
Howard Nalley
Percy Pondexter
Elsie Randall
James Simpson
Joyce Smith
Ann Swann

The last graduating class of Bolling High School was the class of 1961. Mr. Earl C. Clay still served the school as principal, but he also was a teacher of chemistry and possibly physics at Lewisburg High School for the 1960-1961 school year. Other faculty for the class of 1961 included Herman L. Saunders and Pearl Swann Carter.

Class of 1961 (4)
Ruby Cornelia Lewis
Doris Ann Nelson
Lorraine Hazel Pickett
James Nelson Swann, IV



This is a picture of the only white graduate of Bolling High School, Elvira Zimmerman. She, her brother, and another boy whose name I cannot remember came to Bolling when Elvira was a junior. The boys, ninth graders, I think, did not return the next year. Faculty members in the picture are Earl C. Clay, principal; Anna G. Jackson, Herman Saunders, Alonzo Branche, Drewery Jenkins, Pearl Carter (1936), Edna Williams, and Mary Cabell. Photograph courtesy of Pearl Swann Carter, '36.

Although Bolling High School has faded into history, its Alumni Association remains active. Persons wishing to contact the Alumni Association may write to: Mrs. Pearl S. Carter, 38 Church Station, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia 24986.

536 - 1816

Photo of Professor Edward Anderson Bolling, age unknown, supplied by great-granddaughter, Carolyn Holliday McClintock, of Inkster, Michigan. This photograph has been donated to the Greenbrier Historical Society by Mrs. McClintock, who gives permission for it's reproduction in this *Journal*.

EDWARD A. BOLLING
NOVEMBER 28, 1855 (?)-AUGUST 19, 1932

by Pearl Swann Carter

It has been impossible to trace precisely the very early years of the life of Edward Anderson Bolling. Although no birth certificate has been located, oral tradition within his family holds that he was born on November 28, 1855, in Richmond, Virginia.

He was educated in Richmond, Virginia, and is presumed to have received his diploma from Richmond Normal School on June 12, 1874. This diploma, possibly earned after seven years of elementary school and a year or two of advanced training, plus the completion of a competency test, was the equivalent of a teaching certification.

Before leaving Richmond, he was made a deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church, by Bishop Henry W. Warren. This title included a license to preach.

His teaching career in Lewisburg, began in 1877. He was a teacher and teacher/principal at Lewisburg Colored Grade School and Lewisburg Colored Junior High for fifty-five years. He is still remembered as a stern, capable schoolmaster. His pupils called him "Professor" without a surname. The oldest living student of Professor Bolling lives in Lewisburg and hopes to celebrate her one hundredth birthday, on December 17, 1992. She is Mrs. Mary P. Kelly.

The Archives of the Greenbrier Historical Society contain a "Contract Between Trustees and Teacher" which reads in part:

> This contract, witnesseth, that the Board of Education of the Independent School District of Alderson in the Counties of Monroe and Greenbrier, West Virginia, ...and Edward A. Bolling, a Teacher holding a No. One teacher's certificate...have this day agreed that Edward A. Bolling shall teach the free school in said Sub-District for the term of eight months, commencing on the 17th day of September, 1906, for the sum of thirty-five and 00/100 dollars per month...

The contract is signed by R.I. Slaughter, president of the Board of Education Independent School District of Alderson, and by R.E. Johnson, member; W.E. Bare, member; and Edward W. Nowlan, secretary. Edward A. Bolling's signature on the contract is in a clear, distinctive penmanship.

It is not known whether Professor Bolling taught at both Alderson and Lewisburg for the school year 1906.

Edward A. Bolling was married twice and had nine children.

His first marriage was to Alice Maria Seams, reported in Larry G. Shuck's *Greenbrier County Marriages, 1782-1900* (Volume I, page 53) as "1 Oct. 1884 (V. 1B) persons of color GROOM: age 29 born Grbr BRIDE age 20 born Botetourt."

This report of Professor Bolling's birthplace as Greenbrier County appears to be an error, as family and community oral tradition is that he was born in Richmond, Virginia. Alice's death is listed in Volume 1-216-1897-80 as 02/04/1897 of "childbed fever" at thirty-two years of age. The children of this marriage were:

Richard White Bolling, born 01/25/1885, died 07/14/17, age 32.

Florence Anderson Bolling, born 06/16/1886, died 02/18/20, age 33; married Jos. H. Marshall, 06/07/18.

Edward Anderson Bolling, Jr., born 09/13/1888, died ———, married Flossie Jarie Jackson, of Pocahontas, Virginia, 1927. (In the *Record of Births* in Greenbrier County Courthouse records, the child's name is written "Everette Anderson Bolling" and then "Everette" has a line drawn through it and the name "Edward" written on the record. See Volume 1A, page 221, Line 17.) E.A. Bolling, Jr. was the first principal of a school for Negroes, in Bramwell, West Virginia and became president of the Deaf and Blind School, at Institute, West Virginia.

Ella Elizabeth Bolling, born 05/20/1890, died ———, married William E. Hawkins, of Ashland, Kentucky, in 1912.

Mildred Alice Bolling, born 02/27/1892, died 07/n.d./1894, age 2 years "of inflammation of the bladder" ("Greenbrier County Court Records of Births," Volume 1A-108-1894-1).

Edna Rhoda Bolling, born 12/31/1894, (listed in Record of Births, Volume 1A-272-25 as "Rhoda Edna Bolling"), died 03/04/58. Married Clarence Smith, of Clarksburg, West Virginia, 1921.

The second marriage was to Eliza Garner Bolling, who was also a teacher. Shuck's *Marriages* lists the marriage thusly:

> Edward A. & Eliza W. Gardner, 24 Nov. 1897; (Volume 1B) GROOM: age 42 born Grbr BRIDE age 36 born Grbr.

Eliza died 01/09/58. Their children were:

Lucy Ann Bolling, born 08/16/1898, died 03/08/21, 22 years old.

Mary Jane Bolling, born 12/24/1899, died ———.

Fannie Virginia Bolling, born 12/18/1902, died 08/n.d./91. Fannie was the last surviving child of Professor Bolling when

she died, in August 1991.

In the next generation, there were eight grandchildren of Edward A. Bolling, Sr.

The marriage of his daughter Ella Elizabeth to William E. Hawkins produced:

William Elford Hawkins, Jr., born 03/10/13
Alice Lela Hawkins, born 01/29/15, died 08/14/88.

The marriage of his daughter Edna Rhoda Bolling to Clarence Smith produced:

Clarence Elwood Smith, Jr., born 10/13/21, died 06/01/66
Samuel Bartlett Smith, born 11/22/23
Mildred Evelyn Smith, born 12/05/24
Donald Irving Smith, born 09/14/27
June Marie Smith, born 01/31/29
Thelma May Smith, born 06/11/32, died 08/14/90

Professor Edward A. Bolling's name lives through the school that was named in his honor and in the memories of the very *few* remaining students whose lives he touched. His legacy extends to generations who knew him only through oral tradition and the stories told by their parents and grandparents.

SOURCES (for Bolling School and the life of E.A. Bolling, Sr.):

The Archives of the Greenbrier Historical Society, Lewisburg, West Virginia, contain the following sources:

"Contract Between Trustees and Teacher," original copy.

Clay, Earl Charles. *The Negro in Greenbrier County, West Virginia—A Social, Economic and Educational Study.* A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Division of Graduate Studies at Virginia State College in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Education. 1946.

West Virginia Daily News, 07/15/83 "300 Former Students, Alumni Gather for Reunion," and "Bolling Name Restored to Lewisburg School"; 06/25/86 "Bolling School Reunion Planned"; and 07/15/86 "Bolling High Grads Reunite in Lewisburg."

Photograph of Edward A. Bolling, Sr., age at time of photograph unknown. Gift of great-granddaughter, Carolyn Holliday McClintock, of Inkster, Michigan.

Program, "1961 Commencement Exercises of the Bolling High School...May 26, 1961." Gift of Pearl Swann Carter, 1936,

author of the history of Bolling School and biography of Professor Bolling in this *Journal.*

Photograph, only white graduate of Bolling High School, with faculty members. Gift of Pearl Swann Carter, 1936.

Shuck, Larry G. *Greenbrier County Marriages, 1782-1900,* in three volumes. Iberian Publishing Co., Athens, GA

Gaudino, Domenick. *A History of Secondary Education in Greenbrier County.* Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in the Faculty of the Graduate School of West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia: 1940.

OTHER SOURCES

Data for Class of 1936 supplied from her copy of the original program, and from memory, by Harriet Kelly Williams, member of the Class of 1936.

Data on Professor Bolling's children found in Greenbrier County Courthouse records and confirmed with the help of Lana Martindale, graduate student in history at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, and by Professor Bolling's granddaughter, Mrs. June Williams.

Bolling High School Alumni Association and Greenbrier County Board of Education records.

Deeds, Records of Births, Records of Marriages, Records of Deaths in Clerk's Office, Greenbrier County Courthouse.

, The West Virginia Daily News,
Monday, August 20, 2001

CARTER

Robert Alphonsa Carter, 88, of White Sulphur Springs, passed away on Friday, August 17, 2001, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center following an extended illness.

Born September 5, 1912 at White Sulphur Springs, he was the son of the late Joseph and Sarah Elizabeth Fox Carter.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a lifelong resident of White Sulphur Springs, a member of St. James United Methodist Church, White Sulphur Springs, and retired from The Greenbrier hotel after 47 years of dedicated service as bell captain.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Pearl Swann Carter at home; son, Robert P. Carter and his wife, Cynthia, of Hemstead, NY; daughter, Vicki Williams and her husband, Robert, of Rockville, MD; son, C. Michael Williams of Fairlea; sister, Georgina Baldock of Bronx, NY; three grandsons, Ryan Robert Shelto, Carlos and Christopher Williams; two granddaughters, Adrienne Johnson and her husband, Anthony, and Toi Carter; and one great-granddaughter, Storm Johnson.

Services will be held Wednesday at 11 AM at St. James United Methodist Church, White Sulphur Springs, with the Rev. Emory Hanna and the Rev. Brent Sturm officiating.

Interment will follow at Rosewood Cemetery, Lewisburg.

The family will receive their friends one hour prior to the services at the church on Wednesday.

Arrangements are by Shanklin Funeral Home, White Sulphur Springs.

, The West Virginia Daily News,
Monday, August 20, 2001

CARTER

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