

Interviewer: Ok, can you please state your full name?

Barbara Gaines: It's Barbara D. Scott-Gaines.

Interviewer: Ok. And what was your situation in the 1960s? How old were you? Where did you live, work, go to school, and where did you shop?

Barbara Gaines: In the 60s? Or, 68 in particular?

Interviewer: The 60s...68. It could have been in the 60s.

Barbara Gaines: In the 60s?

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Barbara Gaines: In the 60s..63 in particular, I was 12 years old when I got...and I was attending Winston Elementary School when I got the news about President Kennedy... Yeah, because there was just screaming, crying in the street and you know, it was in November and school was letting out and you know, parents were scrambling to get their kids. And at that time, I was living on Kenilworth Avenue. 5217 Kenilworth Avenue.

Interviewer: So, you were in middle school? In 1960?

Barbara Gaines: It's more like 62, I was on Loudon Avenue and I was in middle school. Somebody else must have died. 62, I was living 415 Loudon Avenue. 64, I was living 628 N. Denison Street. And I was going to...it was called Gwynn Oak middle school on Hilton Street. Yeah. And then graduated from there and went to Edmondson high school and I was in Edmondson when the riots occurred.

Interviewer: What year?

Barbara Gaines: I know I was attending Edmondson in 68. I know that because I was working with Johns Hopkins in 68.

Interviewer: You were a junior? Senior?

Barbara Gaines: No it was...it was a junior because I was on work-study. I had a work study program and I was doing the... I was working at the dental clinic, recruiting clients for medical assistance, qualifying clients for medical assistance; the state funded insurance. Uh huh

Interviewer: Ok.

Barbara Gaines: And, when I heard about the assassination of MLK, I mean all the way up...I was on the 23 bus line. All the way up all you could hear was screaming, breaking of glass, and when I got off at Hilton and Edmondson Avenue, that Sid and Joe's liquor store...all the liquor that was on the inside was on the outside and I mean they were just passing it. They even passed it to me and you know, called out to me "Oh, this is what your mother drinks." And I'm like, I'm not taking that.

Interviewer: Before the riots, what kinds of interactions did you have with people of other races?

Barbara Gaines: It wasn't... it was still you know, the... the...the race separation because Kennedy had been assassinated. You know he was for the African American people and that was the purpose for MLK campaigning for equal rights. You know...you know the story, let's all...white kids going to school with black kids. I went to a pretty nice elementary school. It was more like catholic...it was like catholic bound. The teachers were very strict. Very. So, and they were you know, more Caucasian, strict, sort of nunnish type adults. But, I have to admit, you learned from them. You know, they weren't in for no foolishness. You could easily comprehend because you know, you had a quiet setting and they didn't just brush off. They were seriously into education. Seriously. But as far as being shunned, there were certain stores we couldn't go in ...in the 60s. The one downtown...Was it Stewart's? Stewarts. African American weren't allowed in Stewarts. We had...we could go into Epsteins which was right across the street. We could go into Bragmann Guttmans. We could go into the Rite Aid because they had the benches. It was almost like a Happy Days setting. You know, where they had the...the yellow Formica top tables and the red chairs, but the food was good,...inexpensive and it was good. So, back then, you know, me personally, I just couldn't understand why my mother had to work for some Caucasian family ironing, cooking. It just didn't seem to be a balance. You know, and I just couldn't, I just couldn't comprehend you know, what was it that they had a problem with. And Marvin Gaye said it. You know, he had this all figured way before his time. What's going on? You know, that's the song that you know, I had to like, lean on just to get me through. Oh, I've been shunned. I had job offers turned down because of it, the race card. I know it. I was offered the job, a job down at Tremont Hotel. And the early seventies and I was turned down because you know, they offered me the job. There was a blond haired, blue-eyed female that um, came in after...afterwards and the gentleman said, well, you know what? I have one more applicant. I need to interview her and they had already offered me the job and the packet and then later by the time I got home, my mother informed me that they decided to go with the other applicant. But, to me, that was all part of...it was all part of it. You know, I mean, I knew eventually, it was going to come to that. Now, when I worked at Hopkins, I work with a predominantly African American group because we were going into the inner city. You know, qualifying...Actually, we were going door to door qualifying the low income...super low income families, to see if they qualified for the state funded insurance. And you know, back then, in the 60s, you know, they did something...I'm not sure who was the realtor who decided to cage our black people in a high rise building. You know, to me that was...that was just like a prison. They prisoned, you know, my sisters. You know, my family...because that's the only housing that they could resort to...in a cage. A high rise cage.

Interviewer: When you talk about state funded insurance, was that the Medical Assistance?

Barbara Gaines: Yes.

Interviewer: Oh, so it wasn't Medical Assistants? Like the assistants that work in the hospital? It was Medical Assistance, the Program.

Barbara Gaines: It was the Program.

Interviewer: Oh.

Barbara Gaines: The Insurance Program.

Interviewer: Ok.

Barbara Gaines: It was first intro...I'm guessing it was first introduced in 68 because there were a lot of uninsured you know, adults, children and it wasn't...at that time, it wasn't you know, strictly, you know, no healthcare for the African American. This was throughout. This was a program that set you know, where they had set criteria and you know, believe it or not, they was more people, as far as I'm concerned, that qualified for that aid than the State would have ever, ever imagined. But, you know what? That was a job I enjoyed because we rode around in a hearse. That's how we got around in East Baltimore.

Interviewer: In a hearse?

Barbara Gaines: Yes.

Barbara Gaines: And as far as family, in spite of the...the pressures of racism...because we had such a large family, I could easily block them out. They were you know what I'm saying? They...they impacted me to some degree because when I went into stores, you know, it's like...I don't know...I guess we just had a reputation they were going to steal something. And it was ...it was prevalent even back then.

Interviewer: So, so how would you describe the racial mood in Baltimore before the riots?

Barbara Gaines: I think that's what...sparked the riot. Number one, he was shot and killed by a black man. I mean, a white man and you know, and that movement...they knew that what he was trying to do was positive. You know, Malcolm X had been slain. You know, as a result of trying to give us you know, equality, equal rights and you know, he was a light skinned guy and they showed him better than they could tell him. And I...you know, I'm not stupid. You know, they plotted to do this. Kennedy was killed because he was for the Black people. You know, and his brother was killed because he was for the Black people. And you know, and Martin Luther King...I mean, he could feel it, he could feel it. He never makes it to ...you know...I like that saying, and I can't probably quote it...“I might not make it there with you”, but he's seen the Promise Land and now, all these years later, half of them, you know, they don't even know what his main purpose was because you know, racism is definitely looking you in the face. Matter of fact, when in 1970... Well, I'm going into the seventies now. But, I was hired in the early seventies because Maryland National Bank had to meet their quota of Black people. And, I was there at the right time. And it was told...I was told that, “the reason we're hiring you is because we have to meet our quota of black people”. And I had been turned down for jobs because they had too many black people. And when I tried to send my daughter to Arlington Baptist Church School, my daughter was turned down because she was black. And they said they already had their quota of two black children in that school.

Interviewer: What do remember about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

Barbara Gaines: I thought it was senseless. I mean, I thought the killing was senseless. Okay, I mean...but, He felt it. He didn't know when and you could tell from his speeches, that he knew it was coming. I don't know if he had threats. I'm sure he did get threats that they promised that they were going to kill him. But, after learning of his death...I mean, the whole city...It seemed like the whole...I want to say the city, but it seemed like the whole country went in such massive, deep mourning because they had to shut the city down! We couldn't do anything! You know what I'm saying? They had riot gear, You know...that's probably why it was called it the RIOT of 68 because all those Jewish, dainty, well established businessmen that you know, actually came in the predominantly black community, they ripped them...we...we, because I'm African American...we just tore up

every establishment that was owned by a white person or Jewish person. We just...That was our way of rebelling and I'm not saying that that was...that...He didn't...He didn't...He wasn't...He did not...Martin Luther King's goal was peace and we flipped it. We did the total opposite! You what I'm saying? What he...Everything that he stood for, everything he worked for went down the drain when they killed him. You know, it's like okay...you were all for it but that's when we should have just pulled together just like when they decided...okay, if you can't let us sit on that bus, in the front, then we're going to walk everywhere. And they did! They proved a point! We were...we are populated...At the time, we were populated so that we working in white people's kitchens anyway. So, what harm...we were doing slave work anyway. So, you know...it wouldn't have been any effort for us anyway because this is what we was used to. Walking, sticking together...You know they had us on a chain gang! You know, it was always a labor type occupation for the African American people. You know, but when Adam and Eve sinned, that was for all generations of people and I don't know why Caucasians felt that they were a little more superior than us. I mean, they had poofed up hair. We didn't have poofed up hair, starched hair. You know what I'm saying? I mean, they...they would spit on you. They just were nasty! You know? I'm not just ...And the parents was nastier than the children because as teenagers, as young adults, I used to dance on the Buddy Dean show and I'ma tell you, we didn't...we, as children, we didn't have any tension amongst ourselves because, you know, we got along very well and at...I see that happening now, that the...the children are breaking the barriers. They don't have the problem. It's the parents that have the problem! And those parents had the same problem back in the sixties. You know, like...like our color was going to rub off. But, they're trying as hard as they can to get this color! I mean, you know...they got the...you know, the botox for...for their lips. You know? Now they want full lips, full nose. They're doing plastic surgery! They're tanning, trying to get as dark as we get. You know? And I don't know what's the purpose of these sports players, but...you know? ...They feel like they're supposed to have a...a white woman on their arm. I don't know what's that supposed to symbolize but, I...you know? And something is wrong with us in the head too because the way I understand it, it's supposed to symbolize success. You know, I'm...I'm successful and as a result of me being successful, I'm going to take on the number one thing that irritates the heck out of ya'll and that's ya'll white woman. We've been lynched, killed, falsely accused because you know...I mean, this is....this is just common. When you hear about molesting.... the white children being molested by their fathers. You know, they weren't the only ones being molested. Black people were being molested too. I mean, they were being molested by white people and they were being molested by black people. So...you know, that's why they were saying...you know, okay, the light skinned people worked in the house, the dark skinned people worked out of the house and I really had a...a very, very strong dislike for light skinned people. Because, you know...I knew that they were mixed with something. They had the...you know what I'm saying? I mean, I know we come in all kinds of shades but, you know...I just...I heard the comedian the other night and they said, "How many light skinned brothers in the house?" And you know, ain't none of them raised their hands. There was a whole lot of them in there 'cause you know...And you know, back in the sixties, you know, it was...that's exactly what it was. As a...you were in as a light skinned person. You know, no if and nobody wanted nobody, you know, dark...not brown, light skinned people, you know, got all the jobs, the better jobs. So, you know, we had some internal issues ourselves. So, when you say, you know...I'm guessing people of color...you know, whether it be Caucasian 'cause that...that...that was it. We didn't have that many Hispanics, we didn't have that many Indians, Chinese people. We had Jewish, we had Caucasian, and we had African American. I mean, we've been called African American, Colored, Black. We're the only race been given twenty names. And we're still called twenty names! I mean, we didn't like "Colored" so then they started calling us, "Black", then we didn't like "Black". Then they called us, "African American". We didn't like that! It's like...and they would put signs on stuff..."Colored". Oh, I couldn't understand it, I couldn't understand it! Oh!

Interviewer: How did you hear about the riots starting?

Barbara Gaines: I was ...as I was saying, I was coming back from the east side of town, Fayette and Aisquith Street, the 131 high rise building to be exact 'cause I worked at Hopkins.

Interviewer: You said Aster Street?

Barbara Gaines: Aisquith.

Interviewer: Oh ok.

Barbara Gaines: Fayette and Aisquith. The number projects I was in, was 131 and as I went downtown, the...I caught the #23 and as I went downtown, I mean, crates were being pulled off of the department store doors. I mean, by the time I got to Edmondson Village, where I lived, like I said, the liquor store at the corner of Denison and Edmondson Avenue...it was called Sid and Joes, it had more liquor on the outside than it did on the inside and it was just...and cigarettes were flying everywhere. You know, it's like it was liquor, it was cigarettes and then, Mr. Carter, who was an African American, um...businessman, I mean, he had his shotgun, but, you know, he was standing guard of his...on his store. And he couldn't believe that his people...Well, Mr. Carter was light skinned but he couldn't believe that his people was tearing up his store but his kids were small and they couldn't you know, defend...help their father defend or protect his store. And I mean chicken wings, bologna...we had...somebody gave my mother. Bologna came in a roll and somebody had taken the bologna, the chicken wings. We could get three pounds of chicken wings for a dollar. It was...fed all ten of us because back then, you know what I'm saying...that's food nobody...only black people ate chicken back then! Okay, they gave us the backs, they gave us the thighs but guess what? We made meals out of them. And now, you can't even buy chicken wings now. Can't even buy chicken wings! But back then, scrapple...that was considered the poor people's food but after we done dressed that up...ooh, we were eating good! All of a sudden, they wanted to know, "What you eatin'?" 'Cause my mother used to cook for in those kitchens. Mmmm...hmmmm.

Interviewer: During the riots, what information did you get and where did it come from?

Barbara Gaines: TV. TV...You know, I'ma tell you...it was on 24/7 and that was to be expected. It was no different than Kennedy; the death of Kennedy. You know what I'm saying? I mean, for days, weeks. And even with that tragedy, it was the same thing. I mean the whole country was in serious mourning because they loved you know...I put it to you this way, they...they respected John F. Kennedy and you know, to have him killed for whatever reason, I mean, he was, from the outside, that we knew, he was definitely ... and my mother broke...I mean she just totally broke down. I mean, I'd never seen her cry like that. And it's just like...it was just like losing a friend. But this...this tragedy concerning Martin Luther King, it was...it was televised. I'ma tell you, like I said, on the way in, I couldn't...I didn't know what was going on. I thought the city was on a blackout or something. But it wasn't until I got off the bus and people were running across Edmondson Avenue back and forth like they lost their minds. They yelling, "They killed Martin Luther King, They killed Martin Luther King!" So, you know, my main objective was to get to the house so I could, you know, at least get some play by play, you know, details about what happened. And you know, they...Of course they're gonna keep you know, it's like...of course they're going to show the incident; the same incident. You know, you see him up one day...You mean, you see him out standing and all of a sudden, you know, he's on the ground. His feet, you know, waving and then it stops! You know? (Sigh) And then his wife, being the woman she was...dignity. Just

like Jacqueline Kennedy. Two women of dignity. And they held their dignity. So, even though there was some racial tension, I, within my heart, had learned that a person is still a person. I was, you know I was a strong patron of Sunday school and I knew you know, at that time, I mean they depicted Jesus as being white and I mean, that's what they had us to believe. But, when we started reading, I mean he had woolly hair, brass! I mean, it took me until fourteen to understand...I'm like, "Wait a minute!" This picture that was in everybody's house...it's like, okay, this is not what the Bible is saying, but, I went along with the program. I went along with the ...I...I did. And I had to say *Good Times* brought it out. You have to bring some humor into it, you know, and then you know, you smack yourself...your eyes are open just like Santa. For years, we thought of Santa, you know, this white haired, white beard man with a white belt and red outfit on bringing gifts. So, yeah it was so unfortunate and it didn't get better for a while. You know, it was almost like it...it was almost like a...we had lost our only hope and it...it took its toll on people because we knew at that point that whoever preceding him...preceded him...that followed after him, I should say, because Malcolm X preceded him and he didn't get far. And we...we just meet. At that point, I think everybody that was following him and what he believed, feared for their life. So, you didn't get forty years later almost, you're not getting anybody that is fighting. I mean, you know...what's? ... Whatever his name is. I thought that preacher was going to step up to the plate.

Interviewer: Who? Jesse Jackson?

Barbara Gaines: Jesse Jackson.

Interviewer: You answered my next question. I was going to ask you did you watch TV coverage of the riots? But you answered that for me.

Barbara Gaines: Constantly. I mean, that's the only thing that was on. I mean, they...you know they closed schools and everything. I mean, from sun up to sun down.

Interviewer: What were your impressions of the reporting of the riots?

Barbara Gaines: It was accurate...It was...I mean, they caught the gunman, they...they...they showed clips of his life in the early days. You know; his children. They had very good footage; black and white footage of Martin Luther King. They really did. I mean, even now, you know you see clipped art of what has happened and you know if they had to do a documentary on him, it would be the same thing that we saw back in the sixties.

Interviewer: How do you think the national news portrayed the situation in Baltimore?

Barbara Gaines: They empathized just like I mentioned. That is not what he worked...that is not what he preached about. He preached about peace and we did the contrary. We weren't the only ones rioting. Black people weren't the only ones rioting...rioting. I mean, they were rioting and hiding their hands. They got footage of people on Charles Street breaking into the stores, taking out TVs...so it wasn't just the Black people. Everybody had their hands in it; rich, poor, Black, White; indifferent...they all wanted a piece of the action. Things that they knew they could never get in life...well, at that time because things were so tight. And you know, money was...they didn't pay a lot and these guys couldn't provide for their families. Everybody had...Colored people, everybody had a TV. If they didn't have a TV, they had a TV then. So, and I think it was fair. I think the coverage...it was fair because they had so much footage. Now, now...the way the police handled it...that's a different story. And I can only go by footage. I mean, quite naturally, they were trying to save a lot of the businesses. I mean, they were arresting people who they caught coming out...Oh girl, I

remember that one on...who is that? Food Fair? On York Road. You know, and all like...all the appliance stores...Man, they were walking out there with stereos, TVs. I mean, that's what it was. They were rioting for merchandise that they never could have afforded to purchase on their own. Clothing...I remember the store on North Avenue. It was a Jewish store and it was one of those stores you had to pay on time. You know you get your pillows, your clothes, your furniture on time and it was free for all.

Interviewer: What do you mean you had to pay on time?

Barbara Gaines: Meaning that, First of all, they were...the merchandise was overpriced anyway and the only way we could afford it was like a layaway. But, we had the merchandise so we paid on our bill.

Interviewer: So, it was layaway?

Barbara Gaines: Yeah, it was just like layaway. Because, you know my first paycheck from Hopkins, I went to Herman's on...and we had street cars too...I went to Herman's on Eutaw Street and laid away my first lime, wet look coat. It was \$35.00. (Laughter) I remember the cost! And then, after I got that off of layaway, I went and bought me some lime, wet look boots. Well, back then you know, it was...you know, we still...you know I was dancing on Jimmy Dean...Was it Billy Dean? Billy Dean. Buddy Dean. On the Buddy Dean Show. So, you know, it was go-go time. So, you know, I had the white boots, short skirt and I could dance. You know, I could dance 'cause I was winning dance contests on that show and I looked good. This 'ole fat girl looked good!

Interviewer: What were your impressions of the neighborhoods that were affected by the riots? What type of violence was occurring and what was the extent of the arrests?

Barbara Gaines: You had to keep in mind, the riots affected all stores. So, weapons and gun shops were vandalized also. So, where the average person had a 22 special, I just feel that that riot really exposed a lot of people to war, powerful weaponry. Because you know, back then it was always concealed weapons. You know what I'm saying? The average person and my mother was included, would walk around with a 22. It was called a Saturday Night Special but you know once they...I mean, the city was a total mess! The city...they had to get the riot team to put a stop. I mean this people were in these...what do you call those? The riot squad...yeah. I wanna say the Maud squad but it's the National Guard. National Guard in riot gear. And you know, it had to be. I mean so, Baltimore wasn't the only one affected. The coverage wasn't just in Baltimore, it was everywhere. You know what I'm saying? So, the city was tore up. And as a result of the city being tore up, a lot of businesses never gained that...they never gained that desire to reopen. It really put the icing on the cake. They decided because it happened to them in an African American, growing community, that it was time to leave. And for as many years as I can remember, we always lived in a mixed neighborhood but after the riots, the people of other ethnic cultures, they were moving. They were moving out of the city! But, you know...and then, that's where to me, they got into these mega malls because Edmondson Village was the only strip mall. That's how they defined that roll of stores and downtown Baltimore was downtown Baltimore. Every major department store was centralized downtown because everything came downtown. After that, like Edmondson Village; it never, ever regained the beautiful appearance that it had. Never!

Interviewer: What were the types of violence that were going on during the riots?

Barbara Gaines: It was looting. Majority of it was looting. They were breaking into stores and taking all the merchandise.

Interviewer: Did anybody get arrested? And what were the extents of the arrests?

Barbara Gaines: Oh yeah! They showed coverage of police walking up on...I mean, you know you could see people trying to get away or, you know, when they'd come out the store, they'd see the police, they would drop and break...you know, drop and break the merchandise and haul tail. They didn't want to get arrested; they just...they didn't want to get caught. You know what I'm saying? When it first started, yes, a lot of people got away with stuff but, they were greedy. They were going back. I'm telling you. Sid and Joe's...I'm telling you, I mean, the Hecht Company; first of all, you couldn't afford nothing in there. Let me correct myself. School teachers, you know, it was right across the parking lot; the Hecht Company. And it was a mega store, it was a big store, department store. And, if you had a little bit of money, you went into there. If you had a little bit of money. If you had sparing money, change, you would go up to E.J. Corvette's 'cause you would get more money for your dollar far as attire to wear to school. But, Hecht Company was known for its fragrances, its makeup, and for the gentlemen, their ties and socks. Because my father would send me to Epstein's to get dress socks. He would send me to the Hecht Company to get dress socks because it was a better quality material. And when my father dressed up, he wanted to be sharp. He didn't want no balls on his dress socks. And because we didn't have the best feet in the world, he would buy our shoes from Hechts. Was that Hechts? Hechts Shoe Store and yeah...Hechts Shoe Store. Rippled soles. Everybody...I mean, you were somebody if you had rippled soles. Remember rippled soles?

Interviewer: No.

Barbara Gaines: They were suede shoes that had ripples. The bottom of the shoe sat up like this with ripples in it. And when you walked, you could hear the Screwch...Screwch. But that shoe was \$16.99 and your family had a little bit of money, you could afford the rippled soles. I couldn't afford them. We couldn't afford them.

Interviewer: Did you see the National Guard Troops in your neighborhood and if you did, how did their presence make you and your neighbors feel?

Barbara Gaines: Yeah, National Guard was definitely on Edmondson Avenue. That was my neighborhood. I lived on Denison Street at Edmondson Avenue. So, they were very visible. I could come out and see them. And it did. You really have to admit that it did make you feel a little safe because they had to calm the city down. Really, there was nothing else left in the general community. Cause once that store was ripped apart...I mean, we didn't have that many stores. I mean, you would had have to gone up into Edmondson Village or have gone downtown. You know what I'm saying? But they had corner stores, but, it was free for all. The doors were open; it was nothing left in them. Nothing! So, the owners...what were they to lock? It was nothing in there. They didn't take anything out of the Laundromat. Yes, I'm trying to think. They could have broke...I didn't personally experience that, I don't think that was that important on people's minds...breaking into the phone booths and pulling the change out. That was not one of the targeted riot opportunities. It was the stores. The merchandise.

Interviewer: What was the mood in your area during the riots?

Barbara Gaines: After the riots or during the riots?



Interviewer: During the riots.

Barbara Gaines: During the riots, was to get...they were very revengeful. And I think it was more of a monkey see monkey do. You know, they heard about it so you know, it was their opportunity to...

Interviewer: A lot of anger?

Barbara Gaines: It was anger but, ... it was anger. Half of them didn't watch TV anyway. But, for the people that knew what the movement was all about; the adults, they were hurt behind it. And then, I'm telling you it just wasn't teenagers. There were adults rioting. You know, parents, mothers, fathers...they were going after it because the whole nation went on that riot. I see they wrote Baltimore Riot but it was D.C. rioting, New York, Philadelphia; everybody was rioting and I'ma tell you, even the upscale stores and I mean, Edmondson Village lost...again, I say its beauty of becoming the first strip mall as a result of the riots. So, it really impacted...the riot impacted our lifestyle; the convenience of our lifestyle.

Interviewer: Well, how did your life and activities change during the days of the riots?

Barbara Gaines: Well, we pretty much had to be inside because they put the city on a curfew so you know, you just could not be walking the streets.

Interviewer: What was the curfew?

Barbara Gaines: The curfew, I think was eight o'clock.

Interviewer: 8 p.m.?

Barbara Gaines: 8 p.m. Can't hold me to it; could have been later for older people but I know my curfew was eight o'clock.

Interviewer: How do you think Baltimore changed after the riots? How did your immediate neighborhood change also?

Barbara Gaines: Well, you know, like I said, my immediate neighbors consisted of more than the African American culture race of people. We had, you know, Caucasian neighbors. They moved out! They got out of dodge! Because, they felt threatened. They felt threatened. They didn't feel that threatened with Kennedy, but they definitely felt threatened with Martin Luther King. So, if they did this to people they know, meaning that Cartwright was...you know, those owners, they were would good to our people. They had running tabs cause my mother had a running tab for cigarettes, potato chips, sandbank. We had running tabs. That's just how we lived back then. And it wasn't a black thing. These white store owners and black store owners would...in the inner city, it's still happening on Edgewood Street. That gentleman that owns that store at Mr. Carter's old store? He still has running tabs for the neighbors and when they get paid, they pay off their tab and start another one. The John Mackey; that closed. That football player, he had a restaurant in Edgewood, Edmondson Avenue. You know, people were eating good. I'm telling you, we had chicken, we had bologna, you know, bread, starch, and I mean, anything that had a kitchen, anything that had a refrigerator had been broken open and people...I'm telling you, people's refrigerators were filled to the gill. Nobody went hungry because everything that was in

these stores that were edible was in everybody's house. And the thing of it was that they were looking out for the next person. I'm telling you, I mean, they would be like, "We got this chicken, we got this chicken! You know, you need some chicken? You need some chicken?"

Interviewer: I was going to ask you what businesses were affected but you just told me that. How did Baltimore, as a whole, change after the riots?

Barbara Gaines: We lost...I think we lost...we lost a unity of black people and white people coming together. Because, I'm telling you, everybody, at one time, back then, it wasn't common for an African American to go into like, you know, entrepreneurship. It was the Caucasian or Jewish people coming in giving the Black person an opportunity. My father in particular, he was an interior decorator; he designed a lot of the stores on North Avenue. He designed a lot of the churches. A lot of these buildings and establishments were owned by Jewish people and I think, well I know the riots had the white...I mean we struggled anyway, but after these riots, the White people looked at us totally different. I mean, I think they looked at us as animals but we weren't the only ones rioting. You know that part they're going to leave out. And trust me, people were hurt. You know what I'm saying? Because if you're going after a particular item, and it's two of you, two blacks and one white, you ain't getting that out of there. The two blacks gonna take that or vice versa. If you black and two whites wanted a particular thing or three whites wanted a particular thing, you ain't going to get it.

Interviewer: That was during the riots?

Barbara Gaines: That was during the riots. I mean, people were grabbing everything they could. Grabbing and running. And they didn't stop there. That's my thing. Once they got it in their house, they went back to the same store and was getting it for other people; getting stuff for other people. They were like, Girl, you going back there? Get me a...girl, get me a TV! I need a TV! You know, my TV broke!" You know? That type of thing. And, you know, I know we have a very shortage of men but back then men were physical because they were ripping those crates off...I mean, I don't what they had before...well, I know at Sid and Joe's, they had that liquor up in them but, yeah, I mean I can talk about it now and I'm older but, it was a sad, scary affair as a teenager. It was...it's like the first thing I thought was, okay, what's going to happen to us now? You know, I mean, it just seemed like we were moving in a positive direction with the right to ride the bus, the colored sign was taken down for the water fountain. You know, it was, I mean it was, we were progressing, we were growing. You know, we were striving for equal rights and businesses; I think Congress, the government was putting a lot of pressure on these businesses. I'm telling you when I started at Maryland National Bank; they hired me and said that they have to meet their quota of Black people. Now, what is that to tell a Black person? You know? I mean, that's why I was hired because they a quota; they put that pressure on them to you know, to hire Black people. Oh, you remember?

Interviewer: Huh? No. I'm just talking about even now; affirmative action. I have one last question. Did your interactions with other people of other races change as a result of the riots?

Barbara Gaines: No. Sixty Eight? No, because Woodstock came right after it. Was that Woodstock? What's Sixty Nine?

Barbara Gaines: (singing) Let the sunshine in...

Barbara Gaines: The hippies and everything; Angela Davis, you know, black power and all that stuff. It was cool. That's when we started wearing the Nehru outfits. You know, here again, black and white was you know what I'm saying? Where they thought they were once separated, we was all on the same accord. You know what I'm saying?