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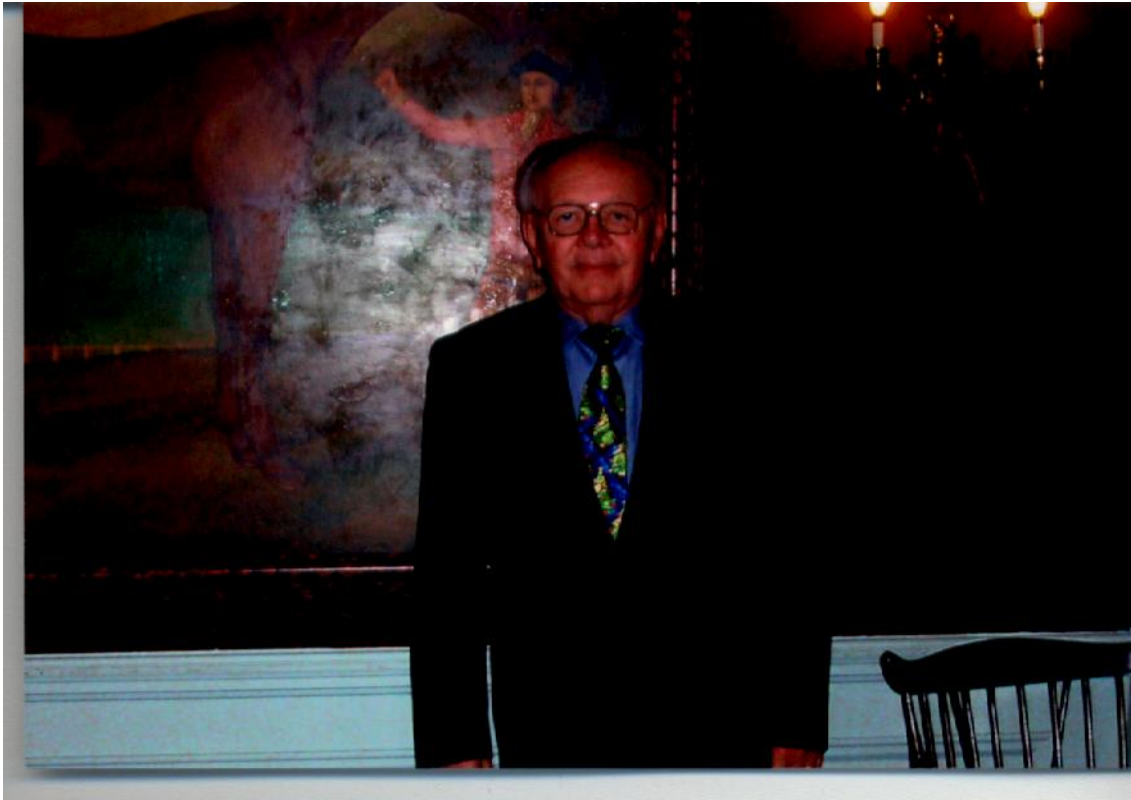
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University of Baltimore
1420 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Mr. Bud Stevens,

The University of Baltimore is launching a two-year investigation called "'68 Riots and Rebirth," a project centered around the events that followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., their effects on the development of our city. UB administration and faculty members in the law school and in the undergraduate departments of history and community studies are planning a series of projects and events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of this pivotal event. We are currently working with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History, The Jewish Museum of Maryland, Maryland Public Television and the Enoch Pratt Free Libraries to pursue funding for projects that may include conferences, a television documentary and a library traveling exhibit.

Your potential participation in an oral history project would contribute to the very foundation of this project – the memories of Baltimoreans who lived through the riots and saw the changes that came about in response to them. Your life story can fill in the limited knowledge we learn from newspaper accounts and the television footage.

If you choose to participate in the project you would be interviewed by students from the University of Baltimore who are currently taking "The New South and Civil Rights." Their work in this course will inform their questions, but your memories will determine the direction of the interviews.

If you agree to serve as an oral history informant in this project, you will meet with a team of undergraduate students on three different occasions. On the first meeting, the students will take a still photograph of you. In addition, if you have a photo of yourself in or around 1968, we would greatly appreciate it if we could borrow it, scan it, and return it. We would reserve the rights to reproduce those photos and use them in the documentary, conferences, exhibit or publications.

The students may conduct the interviews at a location of your choice, or you may meet them at the University of Baltimore Langsdale Library for your interviews. During the interviews, your recollections will be recorded in two forms: audio and video. The students will be responsible for operating the equipment. You can expect the interviews to last for a minimum of 30 minutes each.

The general topics for the three interviews will be:

- 1) Your life before 1968
- 2) Your experiences of the events of April 1968
- 3) What you see as changes that came about as a result of the riots

You will be interviewed three times to give you a chance to process the questions and make sure you are giving the fullest narrative possible. Sometimes talking about events that occurred decades ago will unearth forgotten memories. Undoubtedly, some of those remembrances will be negative. We greatly appreciate your willingness to take the risk of exploring a potentially painful past so that your life experiences will be recorded.

After the interviews the students will transcribe your oral history. They will provide you with a copy of the transcription for your review before the transcription is published. The transcription, video and audio records will be archived in the Langsdale Library Special Collections and will be accessible to the public. Your name will be attached to these documents. The University of Baltimore may use your image and/or your words in any future documentaries, exhibits, conferences or publications. Participants in the oral history project agree to waive their confidentiality.

If at any time you are uncomfortable with participation in the study, you are free to drop out. Participation is strictly voluntary. While your participation is requested and highly valued, you are free to decide whether or not to continue participation at all times. You may decline to have your name published with your reminiscences

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact me at 410-837-5296. Thank you for your participation.

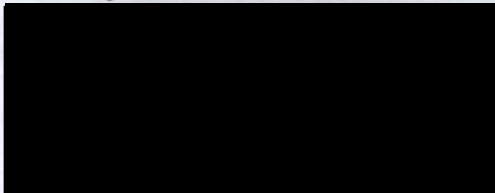
Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Nix, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor
History and Community Studies
The University of Baltimore

I have read and understand the information provided above, and consent to participate in the study. I have also been given a copy of the informed consent for my records.

Mr Bud Stevens
Participant Name

20 November 2006
Date



Interview with Charles “Bud” Stevens
November 20, 2006

Okay, this is the videotape of ...this is the recording of the videotape for Sarah Mendiola, Tiffany Douglas, and Chris Monte...and, uh, so this is taken from the video. And now we will start to play the video.

Sarah: Okay, could you tell us what your first name is, sir?

Bud: First name is Charles.

Sarah: Your first name is Charles?

Bud: Yes.

Sarah: So I'm going to call you Mr. Bud throughout the interview, though.

Bud: That's correct, cause that's my middle name.

Sarah: Oh, okay, and that's how I know ya'.

Bud: That's right.

Sarah: So, how old were you during the time of Baltimore riots?

Bud: To the best of my recollection, I was thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old.

Sarah: Thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old. And what were you doing during that time? Were you working...

Bud: As a property manager, yes.

Sarah: Now where did you work at?

Bud: The office that I was working out of at that time was at the corner of North Avenue and Caroline Street

Sarah: North Avenue and Caroline...Now in your office, was your office segregated, or were there any people of color in your office?

Bud: No, it was a very small office, uh, it was a family business. A father, a son, a secretary, and they were in the apartment management business. They had a lot of houses, and uh, they bought a group of apartments that I was working with for someone else and they asked me to stay with them. That's how I got to be with them. There were four of us at the time. They were all Jewish, I was the only Gentile. We always laughed about it. That meant we always had the offices open. On Jewish holidays, I worked. On

Gentile holidays, they worked.

Sarah: laughs

Bud: That way we didn't close the office. In the real estate business you had to collect rent every day.

Sarah: Yeah, sounds like a good arrangement.

Bud: Yeah!

Sarah: laughs...So at the time that the riots broke out, do you remember exactly what you were doing?

Bud: I better answer the phone first.

Sarah: Oh...uh...right, right.

At the time of the riots, do you remember exactly what you were doing, where you were?

Bud: It happened to be a Saturday.

Sarah: Ooh...

Bud: And at the time I had been on the street all morning collecting rent. That Saturday we get back to the office and, uh, normally we were in the office until 4, 4:30 on Saturday, make bank deposits at the end of the day. And we noticed that, uh, towards the end of the day, which usually was a busy day, it was not so busy. There were very few people coming in to the office after 1, or 2, or 3 o'clock. Actually we closed up at 4 o'clock, and left. And when we went out of the door and locked up the place there was no activity out on the street, no activity at all.

Sarah: And you didn't know what happened...you didn't know...

Bud: No, I didn't, but this was different than any other Saturday. It felt that way. And I went home... and of course I lived here. I came down Harford Road. Uh, our office was, like I told you, on, uh, Caroline Street and North Avenue. That's one block up from Harford Road. When Harford Road goes up to North Avenue, it changes its name to Harford Avenue. And...I go over, now it's very quiet all the way home. It's now about 4 o'clock, a little after 4. And when I got home, I...Shirl was watchin' television, had the television on, and they were showing signs that something was going on where I just left. Within three or four blocks of where I was, was where it started, I guess. But that's where our first violence was. And from there on out, I picked up off the television what it was, what was going on.

Sarah: So you found out about Martin Luther King's death when you got home.

Bud: No, I knew about his death, his death was two days before.

Sarah: Oh, okay.

Bud: Okay?and they knew there was a lot of unrest going on all over the country. Not only here, but everywhere. And, uh, and then the next day was when I really found out what was going on, we got news reports of what was happening, and so forth. And it was hittin' home, and those areas were very close to where we were, very close to our office.

Sarah: Hmmm.

Bud: And, evidently, um, from what I have read, the police and the uh state trooper police were brought into the city to help try to quiet it down But the governor ordered the uh Maryland, uh federal, state troopers in, state guard, national guard in. And then he needed help, that evidently wasn't enough.

Sarah: When did he order in the national guard? On Saturday?

Bud: No, not Saturday, though, but I think that it probably was on Sunday, it was quick, it was that quick. Because I think the quickness of it was what prevented it from getting a lot worse than what it could have gotten to.. gotten worse, turned into.

Sarah: So how long, approximately, did the riots last, would you say?

Bud: Well, uh, let me put it to you this way, there were, it was... probably Tuesday before we, and we had a connection, the owner and I got with him, and uh, and we had a connection with someone who does, who works with the police, they got us back in to see what our office looked like. Because by now, this was all soldiers, all soldiers. Sears and Roebucks, which isn't there now, but which was right across the street from where the office...North and Harford was the Sears and Roebucks, huge store, big parking lots. And uh, when we got in, the soldiers, guards, with rifles, were comin down North Avenue and the side streets and they were encamped on the parking lot. And on Harford Road, you go down Harford Road, past Clifton Park, you could see Clifton Park right from the road, you know, it's a big wide park. And, there were all tents up there.

Sarah: Were the Baltimore police involved in the riots, or was it mostly the soldiers preventing things from happening?

Bud: Uhh..ah, all I saw then was soldiers. They had come in and then when Mr. , the mayor...the governor had automatically sent the state militia in but then he saw evidently it wasn't going to be enough and they ordered, they called the president to send the troops federal troops in.

Sarah: So they kind of took everything over.

Bud: They took everything over they were walking up and down with rifles with bayonets on the end of it, they had gas masks on their back. I mean it was uh, I never seen anything like that here. It was...

Tiffany: Was your office impacted?

Bud: Only...yes and no...somebody broke in...hahaha...but somebody scared 'em. They got into the office, uh, our office had one time, had at one time been a bank. So there was a big vault in this office. So as far as money and things of value, it would have taken dynamite to get in there. But they broke into the building... who they were, I don't know, I never saw anybody when we got there. But they went down there, it was a three story building and a basement in the back of the building. And they had broke the back door in and sitting on the sill of the back door were two adding machines, uh, two typewriters that came from the office upstairs. But they were on the doorsill. Evidently they got that far and somebody scared them and they had to run before they got caught, so they left them there. And when we did get back into the office we brought the typewriters back up, we really didn't lose anything. We had some damage to the back door, but that's, that's all. I never saw anybody, I never saw any of the people who did anything. But I heard about a lot of it from...because we do manage a lot of property from people who do had businesses in that area. Some large stores.

Tiffany: So you did know other people who were impacted more than you were?

Bud: Oh, yeah, yeah. Yes, yes. I know the man who had a store, I can't remember his name, I didn't handle his property but I know it was like a small Super Fresh store it wasn't like a corner grocery store, it was a lot larger an area, and I know he never went back, I mean the store never was rebuilt.

Sarah: So the riots were all throughout Baltimore or where they concentrated in one area?

Bud: It was concentrated in the neighborhood of the people who were doing it. That's the only thing that we thought that was most unusual. If they burned the cleaners up, the cleaners had all their clothes in it. I think it was just a matter of they had to get this all out of them. They just wanted to make a ...a statement. They didn't care how they did it, but they did it. And I think it went further down, I mean, these were only the things you read in the newspaper. Down around Lombard Street and Pratt Street, down around where the Jewish restaurants are, and so forth, I mean they were waiting for something to happen too. So, uh, I don't know how much went down, how far it went.

Sarah: Did the newspapers or anything say exactly what sparked the riot? There was tension, but was there any specific event that...?

Bud: It was the death of Martin Luther King. It happened two days later. That was the spark, or the straw that broke the camel's back. And that's when it began.

Sarah: So the city was tense prior to the death and the death was what aggravated everybody enough to come out and uh...?

Bud: I guess that's what it was. I had not felt, now I had worked in these areas every everyday. I collected rent everyday.

Sarah: So you did sell to people of color, African Americans?

Bud: We didn't sell, we rented.

Sarah: Oh, you rented, so you collected rent from...?

Bud: Yes, yes.

Sarah: Oh, okay. Did ...did you notice a change after the riots? Did you notice any change between the way like, uh, cops interacted with African Americans or did people seem more afraid to go in black communities after the riots? Did you notice anything like that?

Bud: I can only say, from personally, I was not. I went right back to do my regular job. It was about a week before it got back to where our business started again but I had never had a problem before I don't have a problem now and it never was something that was a problem with me. I have people of color that uh have worked with me and I've been retired for twelve years and we still, they still call me. One of them, like I said before, one of them who worked for me when I was with the banking firm, I'm now retired, um wanted to be a guard at the penitentiary and we helped him to be a guard. I think he's now down at uh, he's still there, and getting near retirement. And he calls me every Christmas to see how things are. Matter of fact, he bought one of our apartment buildings which was turned into individual houses and sold and he lived in it, was living in it now.

Sarah: Um, let's see what else here...um, do you have any other questions?

Tiffany: Um, what kind of tension was going on in your home? Were you scared for your kids to go outside or was it more, uh because it wasn't concentrated in your area...

Bud: I was not scared for my kids to go out. Uh, my neighborhood has been integrated, however you want to say it, integrated. Uh, there's nine houses on this block and, uh, a professor who teaches at Morgan has been on the corner for 35 years. Uh, across the street, next door, there's about I think there's four white families and five black families here right now. It's been like this. I've had no problem at all. I've never had any problems.

Sarah: So during the time of the riots, like you guys didn't go and collect any rent?

Bud: For about a week.

Sarah: For a week.

Bud: We couldn't go out there. We weren't allowed. I mean there was a curfew, uh huh.

Sarah: Aah.

Bud: There was a curfew. We could walk outside this door here at five o'clock, six o'clock at night and you didn't hear anything. It was, it was quiet. You couldn't hear a pin drop. Here when the soldiers came in, they put a curfew on...

Sarah: What was the curfew, like dusk or something?

Bud: Something like that...I can't remember when it started. But I know that there was a curfew. And that was to get it under control. I think they got it under control very quickly, ah, as opposed to it, letting it, escalating.

Chris: Was that a general curfew? Or was that only kids or adults have to...

Bud: No, it was general. There was no cars on the street. As far as I know. It was just quiet out front. Quiet around here.

Sarah: Did they close the schools or anything or..?

Bud: I uh, don't remember that...hahaha...sorry..haha

Sarah: It didn't impact you, oh I hear you. Oh in that case... Can you think of anything else, Monte?

Chris: So if this neighborhood was integrated back during the riots, you said, like before the riots it was integrated, was this, kind of like, like what economic status was a neighborhood like this during the time of the 1960's in Baltimore City?

Bud: Well, when I moved here, we've been here 55 years, or 53 years, something like that, very close to 53 years. And, uh, we are the only ones who are still on the block. No, they have changed over the years and uh we now as I say have just about a 50-50 split right on this block. The general area is probably more integrated now than where we were before. But I uh, I'm very happy where I'm at, I'm not uh, I don't intend to move.

Tiffany: Was it more of a...a middle class...

Bud: Yes, it's always been middle class.

Tiffany: Always

Bud: Always been middle class... I mean, you'd think I was very poor if I told you how much I paid for the house and what you have to pay for one to get one like it.

Sarah, Tiffany: Oh, yeah, times have changed!

Bud: Times have changed so drastically that it's hard for my children to understand that I went to college, I got a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, and then I went to work for \$40.00 a week.

Sarah: Oh my goodness.

Bud: And I used to give my wife \$30.00 a week for shopping for the family of three children and now she can't she can't even get to the store for \$30.00.

(laughing)

Sarah: You get some milk and bread, that's about it for that.

Bud: That's how times have changed, changed dramatically for everybody.

Sarah: Did Miss Shirley (Mrs. Stevens) work during the time of the riots?

Bud: No, no, no. No, no, no. She worked for maybe two or three years before our first son was born and he was born when I went into the service. My daughter was born while I was there. Tommy was born when we moved into this house. He's the only one who was born here.

Sarah: Oh, wow. And you lived here for 50-some years?

Bud: Oh, yeah, Tommy's 52 years old. So I ...he was born here.

Sarah: Was this house considered to be in the city or in the county?

Bud: This is in the city, I wish it was in the county. If it was two blocks up that way it would be in the county. (laughing) The taxes in the city and the taxes in the county are so much different. Everything else is too. Automobile insurance is ridiculous here, because it's in the city. Again, I'm only two blocks out.

Sarah: Did you notice after the rioting, and after Martin Luther King's death, did you notice any increase of integration in public places, like in parks or grocery stores, and things like that?

Bud: You know, it's tough for me to answer this question because when I went to work, I worked in integrated neighborhoods.

Sarah: So you were always there.

Bud: I was always there. My property in Forest Park, when I had 150 apartments that I was responsible for okay, I had them over here on York Road on Avenue. I had them over on, what's the name of it, uh Pennsylvania Avenue, this side of Pennsylvania Avenue, and we had integrated apartments there. I even went to Annapolis and had apartments there. Now they weren't integrated, were they? It was a small group, but there were no integration there. At any time that I know of. I didn't stay there long, they were too far away to uh, to take care of.

Sarah: So the whole segregation idea was never even...

Bud: Now wait a minute I lived with segregation the whole time that I was working there. And when I was in the army, I mean I was not segregated, we were integrated. I mean it was no different for me.

Chris: What part of the branch did you serve in, that it was integrated?

Bud: I was uh in the uh regular army. I had gone into the regular army reserves in order to finish my college degree. I was in the second year when it was time for me to go and I was going to be drafted. And I joined the regular army rather than the army reserve so that I could finish college first. I had a five or six year term, I think it was six years, and after I had graduated. Before that six years was up, I had to serve 24 months.

Sarah: And what year was that that you entered the military? In reserve status?

Bud: Reserve status, it would have been...all right, I...I ...probably '49 or something like that because I got out of high school in '47 in '51 I got out of college. So it was...I...I...it was '53 - '55 that I served my uh term in uh, in the army.

Sarah: So, even in the reserves, you were integrated? When you did your drills and things like that?

Bud: Well, well, I guess, yeah. Yes, yeah, I'm sure we were. Yeah, it's hard for me to remember cause once a...once a month, and two weeks in the summertime...that was for the first three or four years until afterwards and uh then I had to go in and uh make up 24 months on active duty. I never left the country but uh I served them here. I was in Camp Pickett for a while then I was down in Fort Sam, Fort Sam Houston.

Sarah: I was there.

Bud: Well, I was attached to uh, uh, training groups.

Sarah: Oh, and the whole time you were there...

Bud: The whole time I was there I was training you how to be a soldier.

Sarah: Oh really?

Bud: That's right. I was doing a basic training.

Sarah: And the basic training and all that was all integrated? Everything in the Army at that time...

Bud: It seemed to be, yeah.

Tiffany: Can you remember a time when it was segregated? I mean as far as your business handling, as far as your apartment buildings, a time when it was mainly a one section, I mean other than Annapolis, that you know that, where it was more segregated than integrated? It could be before the riots...

Bud: Well, yeah, well before the riots, when we moved here it probably was all white families living here.

Tiffany: And what year would that be around?

Bud: That would have been in '57 or '58.

Tiffany: Okay, okay, so that's a big ten year difference.

Bud: And that was basically when I was with those apartments, when I came out of the service, here. Prior to that, I lived out in the county.

Chris: So you said, a week after the riots, you were back with your normal job. I mean in those neighborhoods.

Bud: I was able to get back into it, yeah.

Chris: And did you have friends, like I mean the people you were dealing with, were you on a first name basis, like did you talk with any of these people who were African American that had gone through, that were there? I mean what do you think their sentiment or their um experience was? Did they talk to you at all about that?

Bud: I don't think we did, now the riots took place as far as I know in the city, okay. Now I had property that I took care of that was not in the city, it was in the city, but it was in the Forest Park area, northwest Baltimore, and they were apartments that had just become integrated and they were a mixture of black and white there and I really I don't know, these people liked me. I don't know I was their landlord but they liked me. (laughing) They used to watch me when I collected on Sunday, I mean Saturday, and if I were collecting and they'd see somebody that was a stranger on the street, they'd tell me there's somebody out there we don't know in the neighborhood. You watch out for him. We're watching him or whatever it was. I felt very comfortable wherever I was.

Tiffany: Like a family...

Bud: I never had a fear for anything. Although I'll tell you right now, I would never do it today.

Chris: So in that sense do you feel like personally was it like you were more comfortable 50 years ago with collecting...

Bud: Collecting on the street? Oh yes.

Chris: And does that have anything to do with race relations now as opposed to back then? Do you feel that it's become worse or is it just crime in general?

Bud: I'm not talking about race relations, now, I'm just talking about it's more dangerous for a collector on the street no matter whoever it is and wherever he goes than it was then. I could walk around the street with a lot of money in my pocket everyday. Because I went through maybe three or four hundred apartments and I visited them all. And in doing that, people would stop me and say, "Would you take my rent in? Would you take my rent in?" and I'd say, "Sure." I'd take it and put it in my pocket. Then I'd get in the office I'd have 5 or \$600.00 everyday.

Chris: So even with all the supposed race tension you never had an issue, you never...

Bud: Never had an issue, never had a one, never had an issue.

Chris: And that didn't change after the riots either.

Bud: No, but the riots, the problems, the burning and all that was below Harford Avenue. It wasn't out in west Baltimore, that I recall. It was localized and it was short. They got the firemen there and they put the fire out real quick. It didn't last real long. If it lasted three or four days, I guess, that was the end of it here. Other places it went worse, I think in other cities. I think Detroit had a lot of problems.

Tiffany: Was there any store in, I guess, that downtown area that you um visited on a regular basis that was impacted very harshly?

Bud: No, no, from here everything, we shopped here from Harford Road out, Belair Road, this area, my wife shopped in the uh malls around here. Now the downtown was starting to go down. Howard Street, if you drove down it now you would never know it was the Howard Street of the days when I grew up and my mother took me down to the stores downtown. Howard Street—everybody went downtown over the holiday to see the big Christmas windows in all the department stores—Hutzlers, Hecht, Hub, May Company, all had big, big department stores down on Howard Street. I mean that was the center of the city. Everybody went down there to shop.

Tiffany: Were any of these stores impacted during the riot?

Bud: They were starting to go down and they were moving their stores into the shopping centers out on the outskirts.

Tiffany: So no one actually rioted those?

Bud: I don't think so, no. I don't think so. I think some of them had reduced their size a great deal by then. I'm talking about 77 years or so, that's a long time.

Tiffany: Right. The store that you said was right across the street from your property...

Sarah: Sears and Roebuck.

Bud: Yeah.

Tiffany: Um, were they, was there any rioting?

Bud: I don't think, I don't know, I don't think so. I think because, they were protected because immediately within a day's time, they had soldiers camped on the lot. Nobody was going to come up there and they were walking up and down the street around there. I mean what I'm calling Sears and Roebucks is now the courthouse. The courthouse on the corner of North Avenue and Harford Road. They had that whole block- went down to Broadway up to North Avenue and all the way back. It was big, that was just Sears Roebucks.

Sarah: So, they were basically trying to stop the riots from expanding out.

Bud: That's right.

Sarah: Just keeping it ...

Bud: They they, I, I, that article I gave you, it kind of reinforced in my mind when I read it... it happened so quick and the Governor, Agnew, jumped on it with both feet immediately, and didn't think about it, and, uh, stopped it real quick.

Tiffany: Was there any tension between the mayor and the governor during this time? Was there a ...

Bud: I can't answer that. No, I can't answer that one. I know that the governor and the president-elect got along very well. Matter of fact, because of what the governor did here Mr. Nixon wanted him to be his vice-president. Course that didn't turn out to be too good.

(laughing)

Chris: So, during this time leading up to Martin Luther King's assassination, there was a nationwide push for a civil rights movement, now did you feel that like when you're

watching the nightly news with how the government in Baltimore City and Baltimore County was running did you feel that that legislation was being pushed? Or was there not as much of an impact here as in other places because there was a very tumultuous time with the civil rights and people tending to go to the Supreme Court to get things passed did you feel that that was happening in Baltimore or Maryland?

Bud: I guess we were probably as much involved in it as all the rest. As far as an individual person I don't think I ... I was more involved in my work, my family, and I really wasn't interested in politics that much or even what was going on. I worked six days a week, every week. And I left at 8 in the morning and come home at 5 or 6 in the afternoon which was a difficult responsibility. I had three children, I have a family. I'm very involved in the church. I didn't have much time to think about much of anything. I was surprised when this happened. And I was amazed that it happened. I knew through the news that Martin Luther King had been assassinated and it just felt, you hear people talking, something might happen, something might happen, but uh, that's all I knew.

Tiffany: Besides the restriction on the uh, curfew, rather, was there any restriction, as to whether you could drive past a certain point? I mean before the actual...

Bud: You mean before they put the curfew on?

Tiffany: Before the curfew even came into effect.

Bud: Yes, before the curfew came into effect, but that the riots had started on that Saturday, it was three days before we could get back to our office, yeah. We were kept out of that area.

Tiffany: Oh, okay. Okay, okay.

Bud: And only because we had a connection with a company that did start rebuilding and restructuring and so forth that we got in with them in their car and got them to stop by our office once we were in there. And then we had to get out again.

Tiffany: Okay, okay. So the people that ...that lived in that area or section had to stay in, they were stuck.

Bud: I guess they were, yes, they wouldn't let us in.

Sarah: So they probably couldn't get out.

Bud: I'm sure they probably had to stay in. Yeah, too, I don't know.

Chris: So, if you can remember, before the riots, um,. You know, just to take us back, to 1960's America, when you watched the nightly news was there, because nowadays when news comes on you hear a lot about what different legislatures are pushing, did you hear much about civil rights and did that change much after the riots? Was there more of an

awareness among middle class America?

Bud: I don't think there was much more after the riots than there was before. I didn't pay much attention to it and I don't think that and I don't remember of course it's been 30 some years ago that we had made the news so pronounced a thing. Today you can get 24 hours of news all the time and I don't think that was the case then...you had certain commentators, certain hours and certain channels and that's where you got your news from. Now what channel's on? Four, five, six, seven, maybe four hours in the afternoon. Maybe the other ones are on three or on two when you tie in the national news with it. I sit down at five and from 5 to 7, I watch the news because I watch a little of each channel and then I watch the national news. I think I can keep up with it then. But I never did this then.

Tiffany: Did any of your children have a growing concern as to what was going on around them?

Bud: At that time, my kids were probably teenagers, that would have been what, 30 some years ago, okay, Tommy's 52, Martin's 54 – 55, and Peggy's 54. So they were, take that back, no, I don't think so. I don't think so. They...they, Northern High School was integrated when they went there. And uh,

Tiffany: Okay.

Bud: Both of my boys were involved in sports and Tommy was on the baseball team and Martin was on the football team and Tommy was on the football team. And they played integrated football.

Chris: Do you remember when it became integrated, that particular high school? Was it a recent thing, as far as you know?

Bud: It probably was fairly recent when they did Northern High School was fairly new...well when we moved here there was nothing. All this area you came through was all woods and farmland. They built Northern High School and we were told Northern High School and down by the stadium there, the woods there down at the end of the street there was going to be an elementary school. Evidently they didn't need it, they never built it. On Northern Parkway when you came down, you came past a large school building, that was to be the junior high. And that's been used for all kinds of things. It's not a junior high anymore. It never was, it was just different schools would go in there for part time. I know it was a Jewish group there at one time...

Chris: So, your sons' high schools were integrated, you said your work was integrated, now was your church or other social functions, was that also integrated as well?

Bud: Not at that time.

Chris: So church was still separate.

Bud: It was still separate. There were no ...the area in which the church is was an older section of town, an older section, and there were all the old families of the white people that went to that church.

Sarah: Did you go to the same church, Epiphany?

Bud: My wife was born there.

Sarah: Oh

Bud: I wasn't, I-I- was, I went to the church down in Highlandtown. You know where that's at?

Sarah: I know where Highlandtown is.

Bud: You know where Highlandtown is, oh, okay, I was born in Highlandtown. 2830 Luxent Street. And lived there till I was five years old when we uh, moved to Baltimore County. I started county schools. When I was in Baltimore County, they had seven years of elementary school, and four years of high school.

Sarah: Oh my goodness.

Bud: Which only totaled to be 11, where you go 12. I actually graduated from high school, I was 16 in February and I graduated from high school. And in September I started college at 16. I graduated there when I was 20. So, it was a whole different ball game! We didn't have football in those days when I went to school in the county. Soccer was the big game. Soccer and baseball were the only thing in the county.

Tiffany: Now, what area was this where you said you were going to church. Was this the Highlandtown area?

Bud: When I was born, yes.

Tiffany: No, I mean when the riots were.

Bud: When the riots were, no, no I had, I was living here then. And I had joined our church, cause we had children, I joined the church over here off of Belair Road and Raspe Avenue. And it was not integrated. I mean it was not, nobody said it couldn't be, but there was nobody in the area to go there. It's integrated now, we've turned half the church into a charter school for the neighborhood because the congregation is going down, we don't have the membership we had and we have a huge church there and we've used half of the building for the charter school. They started in there last year. And each year they add another class...another class. I think they added the sixth grade this year. And they add one every year until they go to high school, not high school, but until they would go to high school. It's working out very well.

Chris: Now the earlier church that you said was made up of older white families was that segregated like an unspoken rule or was that definite?

Bud: No, no, it was not definite. The Lutheran Church is not segregated. Anybody can go there. There just wasn't anybody in the neighborhood to go there. And we may not be the kind of church that the uh black person likes to go to. Our service is very regimented and very strict. Right, this is the way it is, see. And you'll see this now with all the churches, they're all doing it now. They're creating a...a...what do they call it? Don't you know?

Sarah: No. I haven't been in a long time.

Bud: I'm ashamed of you.

Sarah: See now Mom-Mom's going to hear this and know I haven't been to church.

Bud: See. No. Now we have a contemporary service which is a lot different than any of the things we ever...Than what I was raised in...I don't like that...that type of service. Uh, we have both now. And we have integrated church now.

Sarah: Anybody have anything else? I think we've covered everything...that we need to cover. Is there anything else that you'd like to add, in particular?

Bud: I don't think so, I guess that I was immune to all this really, that was going on. I saw it only because my office happened to be there. Or else I probably wouldn't know or even seen that the soldiers were here and that all this had taken place. Only what I heard. Sometimes what you hear is not what really happened. You've heard the story many times. I can tell you something and you can tell this little lady and tell that lady and when it gets to the third person, then tell me it's a whole new story. I don't even know what that one's all about.

Sarah: So the impact of the riots necessarily didn't...

Bud: Didn't impact me one bit. Other than that I lost that week and I wasn't able to...We had to catch up a week's work. You know. People renting still had a place to live they still had a place to eat and sleep. They still had to pay for it and there was no way unless they mailed it and I don't think mail delivery'd been there for a couple of days, I'm sure! It probably stopped. And um, no, I had no other problems other than that. I knew that our area was not the safest place in the world because we had been broke in once before. But that was a problem that whoever broke in didn't ...didn't case the joint properly. (laughing) It was a three story house – two stories and then it went in, up to the third story. So it had windows in the third story. We didn't use anything upstairs. We only used the downstairs floor, and uh, somebody broke in over the weekend, and uh, they came in up the two floors and they broke in the windows. They came in on the second floor. Well there was nothing on the second floor. They wanted to go

downstairs. They couldn't get downstairs because the doors had big bolted locks on them. So they look at them, they're going through the ceiling. So they punch a hole in the ceiling, they drop 20 feet down to the first floor. They got 20 foot ceilings on the first floor. Now they couldn't get out .

Sarah: If you're going to be a robber, at least use some sense.

Bud: Yeah, they couldn't get out.

Chris: Now after the curfew and the week you couldn't get down there because of the troops did it, since you were down there, did you feel like there was a lingering period when people weren't coming back? Or did you feel like, like life as usual went right back to normal right after the troops left and you were allowed...

Bud: Well, it was more than a week before the troops left, now we went back in we still had the troops walking around, but things had quieted down. Now, I would imagine that the federal troops had gone, but we still had the militia, or the Maryland National Guard around there. I think...But I um, we really never felt it. I never worked in this area. If I had been collecting rent at (?), Eaton Street, Preston Street, or Harford Avenue..in those areas, I would have known all those people and that would have affected me, but my part was out in West Baltimore. I worked in this company for two or three years before I even moved into the downtown office, I had an office out farther, so I didn't really feel it when I worked there. Maybe you got the wrong guy...

Sarah: No, we got a great guy (laughs), you've giving us everything we need.....You did wonderful, thanks so much, we really really appreciate it.