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I was born in Baltimore (007) between Lexington and Saratoga. It's considered West Baltimore. Well, I lived in a row house in the 200 block of Mount Street, and of course my house was a green house. I mean actually green, you know...and the rest of the houses...now it was brick, and the rest of the houses were red brick with the lines but we had a green house for a long time without lines. Then later on we got lines. We've been noted for that house. It was odd. It was different, you know. People couldn't understand how we could be so happy coming out of this odd house, you know, they looked at us like we were monsters or something. When I came through there were ten of us at one time (023) but anyway we had a pretty nice neighborhood...I guess about 4 or 5 homeowners the rest of them renters.

My parents were homeowners. In fact my father bought his house when he moved in because his wife (027) had he not gotten the house...she said, "If you can't buy a house for me to live in then we can't get married." So he wanted her and he bought the house. And at the time he paid...I don't know what he paid for that house but it was very little compared to what we pay for houses. The house is still standing. My sister lives in it...my second oldest sister. She's 62. She's been in it now since '78. My father died then. Well, you know when we were coming up we only went to neighborhood schools. There was not such things as...well, we went to neighborhood schools that were really black or white so all of our schools were in certain areas. All the black schools were in a certain area. So if you lived in West Baltimore you'd have gone to School 100, School 112, School 103, School 104. Those were the elementary schools...and 132. Then you went to Harvey Johnson Junior High, Booker T. Junior High and Dunbar. Then you went to Douglass Senior High and Dunbar, see...that was all. (044). I went to school directly across the street, School 100, directly across the street from my house on Mount Street. We all did because we didn't start school until we were 7. The reason for that is, well my father held us down. He wanted us to really understand his values and what not before we went to school and those from other families and people rub off on us. So he never let
us go to school until we were 7 and we had to be 7 on that day. Consequently, I
was 7 years old on April 4 and so I didn't start to school until April. In the
first grade I was 7 on April 4 and maybe it was on a Friday. He held you back
until you were absolutely 7 years old. So consequently we were all one year
behind, but we all seemed to have made up for it because at one time in our lives
somewhere along the line we skipped a grade...yeah, all of us skipped and came
out like the average child.

Well, let me tell you this. First of all I am a (OESO) teacher. One of the
reasons I became a teacher is because we had such understanding parents...
interesting teachers, I mean who really cared about whether or not you learned. This
wasn't one teacher this was everybody. Our school was like a home. Especially
elementary school. It was like a home and the principal was the father and the
vice principal was the mother. Usually the vice principal was a woman. Many times
the principal was a man. And then the teachers, shhh you know they just did the
thing. Of course that was about all black people did back there...some lawyers,
some nurses but the majority of black people went into teacher training and they
became professional teachers. Graduates of Coppin. And so they were all very good
and they were all interested and they insisted that we learn and we did...and those
who didn't learn, shhh they weren't ostracized...they had what you call a 'one room
seat.' It was a class for those who caught on just a little bit slower than others...
and when they went in 'one seat' it looks like they worked hard toward coming out
of 'one seat' and they could get in the mainstream in the beginning. It took away
from a lot of that having so many people in the class with so many ranges. We
were all about together. You might have one group that was a little faster than
the other but the groups were close together. And we just seemed to learn all sorts
of things. We learned like...we didn't know anything about not being able to read.
Talk about reading and reading scores. We had what you called City-wide tests
when I was coming through. With City-wide tests we didn't know anything about
having scores below our grade level. People who were in the third grade or fourth
or whatever they scored whatever grade they were in. We had a handful who may have been behind. And it's so much to talk about. I can't talk about all those things you know. It's just, it's just...maybe one thing at a time, one day at a time (laughter)...yeah, because honestly it's just so much to talk about. So many good things that happened. Oh child, we had...first of all...it's so funny, you know ahhhh...we didn't have central heat at home. We had what they call a portable stove. We called them...I forget what we called them...I mean they were portable and we could take them around from room to room. We were pleased to go to school because they had heat. And then, I don't know, we just went to school and there were so many interesting things going on. We used to have contests and tournaments and we used to have bazaars. We would participate with other schools...maybe somewhere at the end of the year or if we didn't at the beginning of the contest we would come together. We would go together at Druid Hill Park...from all the schools...we had May Day. We had a ball. May pole dances and things like that. We had a recreation center right at the school across the street. Every child in that neighborhood...it was almost like school was in session and we would come and we would play all sorts of games and dodge ball and jacks and we would read and we had dramatic clubs and write poetry and we do all sorts of things. School was our life. We went to school from 9 to 3 and then from 3 until about 6 or 7 we were in recreation. And that was like school all over again. We did have some teachers work in recreation. There's one who is living right now. I think her name is Edith Thomas. She taught some of my older sisters. She was also in recreation right across the street. Especially in the summer. They would work in the summer time. But then they also had...some of the activities that we had in recreation pended into the school because we also had clubs in school. We carried them from the school back into recreation. I belonged to/dramatic club. My sister and I used to sing together sometime. We used to sing. We used to harmonize. Of course we sang at home. Mommy and daddy sang, we used to sing together anyway. We used to sing a little song called (124-a couple lines of song) something like that. Something
like that. Something my mother taught us. And then she would sing. She had a nice little voice. I would do the alto. And then we used to sing Somewhere Over the Rainbow...just get little catchy things, none of the popular songs...you know, something we learned in school or something moma taught us. We used to sing because she was forever teaching us songs and what not. And......I really don't....I don't know. It was fun, you know, we were the last black street. The last black...you know we didn't have integration when we were coming through so our street was the last black street on our side of town. The next street over to us started with the white people and they lived from there beyond. And then we used to have a playground in the area that was strictly for them...for white people, but those of us on the edge street...we could go because the children all in the white families played with us. We weren't allowed to go in the white families homes but we slept and fed and helped with homework with many a white child. Yes indeed. I remember Greensteins in Max. Now Max was right in the neighborhood and / was right/ the neighborhood because they had corner stores. We still see them when we go to the house. There's such carrying on and hugging and kissing was back in the thirties and forties you know...we played with them. We played with the Greensteins. I remember when integration first started around the fifties or sixties and my oldest daughter was out in Kimlico. I met Yetta ahhh (snapping fingers) Mac, used to be Yetta Freeman. She used to be in our neighborhood. She used to play with us and come into our houses...because everybody was really shakey about this integration. And boy when I looked this child had her arms all around me...and everybody looking on...what's going on. We played with these children. They came to our homes. And there parents knew that they played with us and came into our homes. They would come up to the corner and call. When M's Swee* was ready for Irene she'd call her. She'd say "Irene come on now...time to go home." But we couldn't go in their places. They could come in our houses. We made whole/bread for them. We used to have a wheat grinder at our house. Yeah, we used to have to grind wheat. We would grind the wheat, we would sift it and we used the flour for bread and then we would take
that husk that was left from the outside of the wheat...mama would boil it down real good and child we'd put milk and sugar on that and a little bit of margarine if we had it, a little bit of butter or oil or something like that. We used olive oil. That's what we used most of the time...and eat that for cereal. Sometimes we would just mix some of it...it was coarse you know...we mixed it with oat meal or some other cereal. But anyway, mama made bread and they used to come in like many days. When I say they I mean all the children used to come in and we used to hate the idea of having to grind this wheat. They would love it. So mama made hot bread everyday. People in the neighborhood got bread everyday. Oh, and then up on Fulton Avenue...some of them didn't know mama personally, they would say..."such and such a person brought some of those rolls home, would you mind sending us a couple." And she would send them a couple of rolls. Oh my soul, I started work when I was 8 years old. And that's where you worked in some of those houses. I mean I was scrubbing steps. It would vary as to how much you could make scrubbing steps. Some would give you 6 cents some maybe 10 cents some 15. Sometimes you could do maybe 10 or 15 pairs of steps in a day you did pretty good. At that time my sister was working full time. She made a dollar a day and at the end of the week she had about 7 dollars. Sometimes we would go out in one day and make anywhere from 10 to 15 dollars but you had to hustle real good. And then we were known. We got to be known because we did our work early. So we had a lot more jobs than other people. There was never anything steady. You'd ring the bell and they would just look at you and say no not today and then somebody else would go along and they would see that it's one of the Bond girls and they would say come on and do my kitchen. We had a reputation for doing good work. Well, we were never just told to go to work but I guess because of circumstances we just felt like it was the thing to do and I guess when I came along being number 9 I just felt that that was what everybody did. I was glad to do it. I can't just say that I started working at 8. Everybody started working at 8. I think Claud did less than any of us. She was the youngest. Then too, you know, we had shoes we wore to school all year. In June those shoes were
put away till September. My father put them away. When he put them away we went barefoot in the summer. So if you didn't want to go barefooted all summer, if you wanted a pair of shoes when Sunday came then you would go to work. We didn't go to church. We had prayers in our very home. My father was a preacher...I said my father was a preacher. And so...we went to church sometime but I mean it wasn't a thing that we did every Sunday. So we had church at home every Sunday child.

Every Sunday mama would get up at 6 o'clock in the morning and get your breakfast, whatever it was. Some Sundays it would be oatmeal. Some Sundays it would be Waldorf salad. She would get up and fix it at 6 o'clock because we had to move when he moved. And sometimes we would get the oatmeal maybe 1 o'clock in the day. We had Sunday school, prayers, church and all this. Of course we didn't sit there by ourselves. Maybe other children came in. And after we finished that we would go out into the yard. We'd be out there with daddy a mama all day and ice watermelon, children would come in the yard and play all sorts of games...pussy in the corner up a little further, jump rope...you know daddy always had a beautiful yard cement...we had a (217) that made a roof all the way across and then we had a hammock down in the lower part of the yard that we used all winter. In the summer time in the evenings (221)...make some money, so daddy would have us pick worms. Sometimes we picked worms all day. A penny a hundred. We would have to pick 500 worms to get 5 cents. For 5 cents child we could get 5 grab bags. They used to call them grab bags. A bag of goodies. We didn't know what was going to be in it. We opened it and we would have about 10 or 15 things in it. We had suckers and cookies and hard candy some licorice and...they were those little chocolate things with the little white beads on it. We had a little bit of everything. You know, that was a lot of stuff. And we had one of those big coolers like they had in church. We always had one. Of course we didn't have electricity until I was 14.

That was somewhere in the forties because I was born in '29. I was so mad when I got my electricity...I was so ticked that I ran around and got all my friends and brought them home to show them my electricity and they didn't know at the time that
I didn't have it because mama had these hanging wall lamps that she kept so clean and polished that nobody didn't know that we didn't have electricity and I was really hurt. But nevertheless we got it and I was tickled. Of course before that we had electricity but we didn't have the wires or the lights because before that we had a radio and we used to keep a lock on the radio and we could only listen to it on Friday sometimes Saturday. You couldn't hear it on Sunday at all. It was day of rest. We couldn't play games on Sunday. We couldn't play jacks. We couldn't play anything noisy. We could play some quiet games. They had to be very, very quiet. My brothers used to know how to pick the lock and turn the knob on so that we could hear it sometimes. We never did get caught. But we used to sit and listen to it. We couldn't hear it unless we looked at it. We would all sit around and look at it like it was television. And we had a telephone too. People didn't have telephones. By the time I became 3... when I was little... they got rid of that telephone for some reason and I don't know why it was... then we got it back again. Oh yeah, the neighbors came to the house to use the telephone. They came to my house for everything... and I've never understood it to this day. And I guess the same thing happens to me since I've been married. Because right now people ring my bell for things that (266) and I guess it stems from being raised that way. And whenever they came mama gave it to them because she never went to them for anything. (269). We never went to a neighbor and said, may we have sugar or flour or whatever. They would come to us for anything. So they would come to use the telephone, come to hear the radio and we had a phonograph too... one with the big horn you know but we could only play religious records. We didn't miss not being able to dance at home or only being able to play religious records because you don't miss that you don't know. We didn't know much about it. And when we went out to play, you know, you didn't have TV and could see all this on television... and when we went out to play we weren't dancing we were busy playing. We didn't dance on the street. That was sort of out. These people didn't do that. Dancing all out in the street and corners and things like that. We played games.
When I came through school. They had opened up this annex at Booker T. So instead of you going to Booker T. Washington you went to the annex which was located 3 blocks from School 100. You went there to the 7th grade. Then you left there and went on to Booker T. And they'd teach us with justice, interesting, oh we used to have music. We used to learn songs...songs with messages. The songs that we learned were all related to whatever we learned in school, you know. If we were on some social studies unit songs were related with them. They really taught you things and they were so beautiful. To me it was much more beautiful than the classes the ones they have today. We looked forward to passing! And right now I see one of my junior high school teachers, right today and I'm 52. She's got to be in her seventies. I see her in the market, anywhere. When I see her it's like everybody...they knew you. I don't care how many children they taught. They knew your name. They would see you on the street and speak to you. Of course there were a lot of teachers you knew. They knew my parents, especially my mother because some of her family was into education. They would call my mother Sally. In fact in my junior high school my second cousin was the principal. My mother's first cousin. In senior high school I had a cousin who was principal. When I was in the fourth grade I had person who was married to a cousin of mine, she was there. I guess that really helped us...really made us feel like, you know, doing a good job. And then Earl Anderson who I'm sure a lot of people know today because he's not that much older than I am...he was teaching at (319) when I was in there. He came when I was in the grade. And then when they finished elementary school we used to have to clean all the rooms out. Of course they didn't have a lot of books like they should have had. They would have to hold onto what they had. All summer long my dining room stayed cluttered with all of Earl's things from school. He'd bring all of his books...to my mother's house. That was my dining room, yeah. All around the chairs. All under the chairs and all on the floor. All of his books and anything that he didn't want to get away from him. The teachers were responsible for their materials...if they wanted to keep them. Many of them were. That policy
was when I was in the second grade. Maybe by the time I got into the 7th grade that policy had changed and they'd leave them in school. But prior to that,... and when they got a hold of a good set of books they would hold onto them. And so my dining room would stay cluttered. We would clean that place out and bring all that stuff over because we would be so glad to be helping him. We would be so glad to tell the neighborhood children, "Mr. Anderson is our cousin,... young children, you know. And about... my third grad teacher was a good friend of his. And so every Friday my mother fried fish for about 6 or 8 of the teachers. One time she was frying fish (342) we got all these children here and you send them fish... and then after that they started buying their own fish and send it to her to cook, you know.

Well, junior high school was nice. They were all about the same. Even when... I graduated from high school in 1947 and as late as I graduated the teachers were same concerned still that / bunch of people who cared whether or not you got something, you know... who really cared whether or not you got something and who really had the know how and knew how to teach. You know they really knew how to give it to you. And I don't know that's happened since then. High school was just about the same as elementary and I mean people knew you. Having had 8 people before me go I was alone when I got there, you know. And of course certain things were expected of me when I got there because they knew what Ruth did, and what Buford did and what Edith did and right on down the line...my brothers and sisters. Luther and Ruby didn't go to Douglass. The rest of us went to Douglass. They went to Carver because Ruby took cosmetology and Luther took up... what was it... he wanted to be a chef. And then Emmett also went there. He took up shoe repairing and tailoring. Carver was a vocational school and it's still a vocational school but I think the idea and attitude toward it has changed. Now when we were coming through a lot of people thought that people who weren't fast learners went to vocational schools which wasn't true. But this is what they thought. Ruby, Luther and Emmett wanted to do that. Emmett went to vocational school and got his training in shoe repairing and worked in the tailor and went in the army and came back and went to college.
and taught school until his death. Vocational school wasn't just for dummies but
that's what they used to say. Whenever you went into a trade you were suppose to
be not so hot.

I can't say that I had any special interest in high school. I was always
excellent in math right on through. I was real good in math and I'll tell you
something else I always worked to be near the top of the class. I never tried
to be first. You can't say that I was competitive but I never let myself get out
of that first five. I always had to be in that first five and that happened right
on through until maybe I got into college I may have been in the first eight. But
still, I mean, I like math. I especially like math. I wanted to be in dramatics
but in high school...the club was so demanding. People worked. I had to work after
school. So a lot of activities I didn't participate in. I was very good in gymnastics.
In fact if you look in my...I'll show you my yearbook. I have a few shots in there.(397)
When I went to college, I'm not kidding, I worked out with a couple of fellows. We
worked out for three years. You wouldn't believe it to look at me nor would you.
Yeah, I used to turn over, flip, flop. Of course as a child I used to play baseball.
I had two next to me...my youngest sister and then my brother. I was between the two.
I'm number 9 so naturally I'm between 8 and 10. Number 10 is my sister. She was
a little younger so it seems like she went with her/friends but I hung out with the
brother. So consequently I played football, hockey. Oh, I used to catch the streetcars
...get a ride up three blocks, you know when they had the trolley cars on skates.
I did what the boys did. On skates, you know, you'd hold onto the grate of the
streetcar window. One day somebody went and told daddy said, "Mr. Bond you know
your daughter is out there..." he says, "Noooo, not my daughter. My daughter wouldn't
do a thing like that. What he didn't know was that when I went up I went up on the
left hand side so that he couldn't see me and when I came down...most of the children
couldn't come down on the left hand side because it was like close to the curb and
if anything was parked there it would be hard but I always went down on the left
hand side so he never saw me. That was a thrill. I've had the (422) say you
she can really go. Well I wasn't a tomboy." I played football with him. I played basketball with him, I played hockey. We would skate. We would play in a 6 block radius for hours and hours at a time. When I got to be about 14 he cooled on me, you know. Well, I guess he thought that I was growing up and he was ready to party and I guess to do a few things...hanky panky, I don't know. Yeah, so when he got ready to go he would say, "No mama don't let her go because they're not doing right. They're doing this and they're doing that and they're doing the other," you know. I never got chance to go. After a couple of years I never got out so I never bothered with parties and things like that. And then once in a while after I got in high school the girls used to say, "What happened to you Friday," and I'd say I had to go to work. I'd tell them anything. But I wouldn't tell them that my brother said don't let her go. I was like 17 then or 18 and my mother would say, "No, you don't need to go." I tell you something else in high school I wanted to take business, but at that time you know you went to Coppin when you left high school and then you went to Morgan. I really wasn't financially able to go to Morgan. So knew that if I went to college I would go to Coppin and at that time they used to tell us if you're going to Coppin you must remain in the academic course in high school. Yet, we had February and June graduations. When I got to Coppin in September, all those people who graduated in February from the business class were right there in Coppin with me and they ended up coming out with me and they always had a skill that I wished I had. So, I could have taken business and gone to Coppin too.

I decided I wanted to be a teacher before I went to Coppin. I decided I wanted to be a teacher when I was a little girl. Like I told you before the teachers were just such beautiful people. I always had a desire to help people. I was a very helpful person. So I went to Coppin! And when I got there I was at the old Coppin on ________ Street. It was one floor in an elementary school. It was my College. I guess we had about 2, 4, 6 maybe 8 rooms and it was like family. And of course my class was the biggest class in Coppin's history. They had two sections to my class.
Both sections totaled 65. That's how many people came from my class when I graduated from college. Can you imagine. And again, like I said, it was like a family. The principal of the elementary school...we had better principals in elementary school (483). But we worked closely with the elementary people under us. They were two floors under us. There were a lot of courses we took at Coppin that I thought were very unnecessary. But I didn't find it out until I went out into the teaching world. But prior to that we had a lot of courses in science that were good. A lot of courses in the various subject areas that were good but a lot of the method courses could have been eliminated. I could have used that time to work with the children. We only had about...I think that we had 9 weeks...twice during the 4 years that we worked with the children. I think that if you're going to really be a good teacher and you're going to really understand children and know what it's all about, I think you should have to work with children from...when I say work with children, we always worked with children the whole 4 years but I mean it should be extensive. Nine weeks out of each year, I think, we should work with the children. You know, because that's when you really learn. And after you finish college and you want to teach, you know you look and in five years you learn so much from just doing it and being there. And um, it was nice. I enjoyed my college experience very much. Most of the people, there were quite a few in my class in high school...I was in one of the classes in high school, you know, it was kind of special...on that side, you know. Twenty-four boys and 12 girls, you know. Out of my 12th grade class many of those boys went on to college. So there were a few of us who went on to Coppin and the bulk of my class in Coppin came from business class from high school. I don't know whether they came because a lot of people hadn't signed up for it. Somehow, I don't understand it but the bulk of the children who left high school to go to Coppin the year I started came out of that business class. Those who were in my class which like I said was sort of a special class they were the ones out of my class from high school who when on to Med school and became nurses and doctors and things like that. I can name Dr. Epps, Dr. Ray right now and Ben Brown, you know,
the judge, Delores Peters. She's into writing. They went into a lot of different fields. But I was one of the few who went into Coppin out of the class. But I enjoyed Coppin. Of course we knew, even though I wasn't in their business class at high school... I knew most of those people because we were in that same neighborhood. We played together after school and all. So it wasn't like we were strangers. And then the people from Dunbar, which was in East Baltimore, also came over to Coppin. So this was when I had a chance to meet people from East Baltimore. This was a nice experience. Right now my oldest son's godmother is a girl I met when I went to Coppin and she's (550). It was very nice. I found that East Baltimore people have a little something that West Baltimore people don't have. People don't like to hear you make generalizations like that. They seem to be, to me, you know... In West Baltimore when I was coming through you know they had these sections of the City, you know. When you lived up above Whitelock Street you were in one class and then when you lived down below Saratoga where I lived you were in another class and then when you were in South Baltimore you were in another class. So you know you had these classes and, I don't know, the people who lived down sort of in the lower part of Baltimore there parents didn't bother too much about them associating with the people in the upper blocks. It didn't matter. But the people who called themselves to be in the upper part of Baltimore didn't want their children to come down and associate with the people in the lower part of Baltimore. It sound silly but that's the way it was. But I found out when I went to Coppin they didn't have classes and sections like that in East Baltimore. Everybody was the same, you know... regardless of where they came from. That part I liked a lot. I liked it a lot. You know Mary Carter Smith who does the radio warm very show was at Coppin and she's from East Baltimore. Very/lovely people there. Of course the young people couldn't help it. This was that the older people put into them, you know, during that time. I found them to be warmer and more together as a group than we were. Of course to be very truthful now even with relatives. I had relatives who didn't speak to me. I knew that they were my relatives. Because
of this class thing, you know. Of course now it's all changed. Since then we've had family reunions and all this crapp (laughter). But ahnhbrum, it was nice at Coppin. It was nice. I tell you elementary school teachers...they're the ones. They're the ones. They're the ones who need the training to work with the children really who need everything and if they can manage to do everything that they're suppose to do in elementary school the rest of it would be smooth sailing. (598). So that's why I'd like to see the elementary school teacher really start out working with the children from the beginning, you know. Because they have to be.

I was fortunate to go right into the classroom after college. I tell you the truth, during the summer, the year I graduated...well I worked every summer. Of course I worked at hospitals, factories, you know. I worked every summer from the time that I was a little girl. In fact my first public job, I got when I was 13 years old. Worked domestic. Now I did this other little work during the week after school. But during the summer I worked. Right now I have ledgers of my earnings way back there. But anyway, I worked at the Continental Can...not Continental Can. The summer I graduated I worked at the __________ Glass Company. Making good money you know and I decided that I wasn't going to bother to teach. I was going to stay at the glass company. Because the money was nice and I liked the people I worked with. And when I told my mother...it was the first time that I had ever seen her cry. She didn't cry but tears ran down her face. and she said, "Ohhhh, as hard as you have worked and all that you have put in, I'm so disappointed."

And I said say no more and I went on and (628). Then I started teaching. And of course it was more or less then like it is now. Jobs were unavailable when I came out of through. So there were only about 15 of us/that 65 appointed. I happened to be one of them. And then the rest of the people were put on a sub-list. And as jobs came up they would fill these jobs. And that's another reason why mama thought that it was so foolish for me not to take this job because they had so few (640). So, I went on to teach. It was a nice experience. My first school was 119. And since then I've worked with children I taught. And the first thing they do when they walk into my
is tell my children...one girl taught Spanish at the school where I taught, she taught my children Spanish and she walked in and she said, "This is the best teacher in the City of Baltimore. She taught me when I was in the fourth grade." You know. And I've had that happen several times. I enjoyed teaching very much, very much. Well the system is like any other system. You know systems have hang ups and this school system has hang ups, you know, it does...it has hang ups.

When I went into the system it was just about the same as it was when I left the system. That's one of the reasons why I left the system. Now! How does that sound? Doesn't that sound awful? That's the way it was. People talk about how it used to be this and it used to be that and they taught you cared. Well, teachers did care! Teachers cared but they didn't have these administrators who came along who I feel maybe didn't know exactly what they were doing and maybe they didn't know what they were doing because people above them didn't know what they were doing, I don't know but they came in and they changed programs and they changed programs and they're suppose to be changing because change is fine. They'd change reading programs and change...well, they were all right but I felt like if you're going to make a change or if somebody's come upon something new, o.k. that's fine but work with it and work with it until you can find out whether or not this thing is going to work. But we had them coming in and going, you know. And at one time we had what they called course study and we all taught the same thing I don't care what school you went to you were all teaching the same thing. Well, they say that this is not life but to a point it is when you're actually teaching that skill. So when a child was in the third grade in South Baltimore that child could move to North Baltimore and go into the third grade and be picked up right there. Well then they changed they had all these different things they were trying. They had one child who was in the one method and another child was in another method and another child was in another. When they leave this area if they should happen to move and go into another area if they're not doing the same method that they had then they've got to start all over again and they get lost. Children get lost in that way. So they
never really did anything to make it consistent throughout. It should have been consistent throughout. So, that didn't help. And then in a school you would have a teacher in one grade...maybe she was using... I can't remember all of the methods... but maybe she was using the ITA then you have another child with another teaching using the regular Ginn Method. Then at the end of the year when these two classes are made up for the third grade then you have a mixed class. Then this child who's doing the ITA... he's a little behind because you would use this other method over here and it just, you know, it just wasn't right. I don't have all the answers. All I know is that something is wrong. And I think one of the things that is wrong is that they didn't give any one program a chance to work. You don't want to lose the children (End of Tape 1 Side 1). It's like anything else. You have to use it longer to find out whether or not it works and so many times we didn't stay into anything long enough to find out whether or not it worked. And even though, say, maybe a whole year a group of children didn't do so well but maybe after that year you would find out that this could work if this was (CCC). And you could move on from there and come up, after that. But stop mid-streaming and start something else and stop mid-streaming and start something else. That's an experience. That's why right now they're talking about going back to the basics. Everytime you turn around they're talking about going back to the basics and the basics is nothing except you teach that reading and writing and arithmetic and forget all those program. I always felt like people who didn't even work with children sat home and figured out because they had these minds, you know, and then brought it back and never even worked with children to know whether or not the program would work or not. You know what I mean. A lot of teachers felt the same. When we came through, especially when we first started teaching, you know teaching was a job that paid off. It was gratifying too but then also, the salary wasn't bad compared to other salaries. Of course now it's nothing. Then I started teaching salaries weren't that bad compared to other salaries and you have some people who work for salary. You have some people who work because they like what they're doing and salary doesn't make that much a difference.
as long as they could eat and sleep and make it. Then they're some people who work for that salary. A lot of people stayed for that salary. A lot of people leave the classroom because they don't like it and then they move up and they become administrators. This happens in the system. That's why I'm talking about the system. They shouldn't have even been teaching. Then they get up there and become administrators and are suppose to help teachers teach and they don't know anything about teaching themselves. If they had brain enough to move up to take the test, they had the drive or whatever it was to go to school and to get the degrees that they needed and to get these jobs and not know that to do after they get them, you know. And some principals have a few teachers who will work for them. And some of them have a few teachers who say I ain't gonna do her work. And you get one of those and the school is lost, you know. Let's get off of that. I don't even want to talk about it. Talk about something else. It makes me tired. I couldn't call myself frustrated, but you know I call myself getting older. And so number one, you know, none of us live the same but in my household after I had been teaching about three years I got married and then after that I guess I taught for about six years and my husband went in business so that took him away from the home and I did the whole thing. I did everything. I went to work. I took care of my home. I did the marketing. I paid the bills. I'm not talking about money-wise. He brought money home. But he wasn't here. I had to be mother and you know the father sometime. I had to teach my children to love their father because he wasn't around to love. I had to teach them to love their relatives because I couldn't get to take them to see them a lot, we I had a lot of things to do. So did age coming up. And after having done all the things that I did, well, a lot of my friends...they took their children to grandmother and they stayed for two weeks. Of course I wouldn't want that either because I had some of them say I'll keep them for you and I'd say no they're mine. I'll keep them myself. Well, anyway age was coming on and it wasn't that I was frustrated but I was to the point that I didn't feel like dealing with that side of it anymore, you know. And then I was to the point that I couldn't do it all any-
more like I did once when I was young. And I had to decide now what am I going to do. I still had two young children you know. Most of my friends don't have children as young as my youngest. So I had to decide what was I going to do. Was I going to let my youngest children go to pot to hold onto this. And if I had been able to be the kind of teacher like some I say before I left, if I had been able to go to school and sit on it because you know I didn't retire. In three years I could retire. I could have gonesor three years and sat on it. I couldn't do that. I couldn't leave my house and go and suppose to be working with children and do like I saw some people do who were just waiting to retire. Sit and do absolutely nothing. If I could have done that I would probably still be there. But that's not me. I couldn't do it. So my best bet was to leave and let somebody do it who could.

Well, that's all. You look like you feel sorry for me. Please don't. I'm, I'm, I'm not...I just decided, I just decided what I wanted to do.

I belonged to the union I think the first year and then after the union started, you know, parties and all this...that's when I got out of it. It was the biggest thing...the boat ride and the parties and the this, you know, all the other stuff. (067). I was a member. I paid my dues. I was active. And the first few years they seemed to have done things but after that it got real petty. To me it got petty to the point where teachers used the union to get around doing some of the things that I felt that they should do anyway. You know what I mean. They got to the point where they...really I almost feel like that's from a lack of discipline. You always had disciplinary problems right on through when I was a little girl you always had disciplinary problems. But I think that's when that discipline became wholesale.

When the union came in. Teachers felt like, well I don't have to take this and I don't have to take that. You know there's a certain amount of compromising and a certain amount of going along with. Just like raising your children in your home. Things happen, things happen that you don't like happening but you can't walk away. You've got to deal with. You've got to deal with it. So the same with teaching. I don't mean using any physical force but you have to deal with that situation and you have to
find ways to work out, you know. You have a little boy in the class who...say he
want to continually cut up and the teacher says that she doesn't want to deal with
it so she says I want him out of my room. Well if a principal takes a child out
of the room where is he going. To some other teacher. As soon as that teacher
finds out she put him out then she doesn't want him either. You know it got to be
real petty to me. So that's then I got out of the union. They got petty. They
had certain things that they should have had to deal with but they didn't deal
with them because they knew they had the union and they could say that he's in my
room and he's doing this and I can't take that and blah, blah, blah. They didn't
even try. You see what I'm saying. Forget school.

I didn't just work my whole marriage. I think I've had a beautiful marriage,
really. I think that I've had a beautiful life with everything. I think that if
I had it to live over again I'd do it all the same. I got married I tell you...
my mother, I told you, told her husband that she wanted a house. I remembered that.
So my husband wanted to get married but he wanted to live in an apartment because
he wanted to build a home and I told him no. If you can't buy a house and put me in
it then we'll wait. So he bought a house five months before I married him. Of
course he didn't live in it. We didn't move in it until I married in April. We
didn't move in it until July. He bought that house before we got married. In fact
after I got married then I had my name put on the house because you see we weren't
married and I couldn't negotiate with him prior to that. So we got our house and
we were interested in home and we were busy, you know. Fixing it up taking care
of wall and things like that. Fridays, sometimes, we would go out. But sometimes
we just stayed in and played ping pong, cards or had some of my family in, you know.
He like baseball and he would go to the baseball games sometimes. I liked to go
Fridays, Saturdays and sometimes Sundays but my husband didn't like to go but one
night a week. And so we had to compromise on that. And he couldn't dance you know
when we got married. He's a sweet old thing but he couldn't dance (laughter). So when
we went out and I'd dance you know he would get a little peeved. He was not an arguing person. We didn't argue. When we came home after Friday night and the weekend was very quiet. Just the two of us doing our own chores, being very polite, yes... no thank you, that sort of thing. I wasn't use to a household like that so I says to him. You know, let's not go out tonight. He says all right. I noticed that weekend was real nice, you know. So then I got to thinking. I said now why is it that when we go out and come back the weekend is quiet and we don't say too much to one another and just eat and feed and that was good and thank you and all of that formality and when we stay home we're just giggling and laughing that whole weekend and just having a good time, you know. So come to find out that he couldn't dance. So weekend we got a record. I said look nobody out there is dancing they're just having a good time. I said all you do is move to the music. And he said, I can't dance. And I said all you do is just move to the music. He put the record on and I showed him how to move and he hasn't started dancing yet. He tells me that I'm getting old. He's been dancing ever since... so now we can go out dancing. And that's about all we did. We'd go to see his mother in North Carolina twice a year, sometimes three times a year. It wasn't long before I was pregnant. We were married six months and (135). We enjoyed taking care of the baby, you know, working. Of course he was home until she was about four. Then we just... we didn't do anything separate but when he was home we did things together. Of course we were home at least seven years. But boy after that seven years it looked like everything broke loose. He was still working on his own job and had gone into business. He was gone from six o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock at night. And I had to adjust. But he still managed to get out there to that dance even if it was a half hour before it was over (laughter). So we had a pretty nice life, I can't complain. We joined a few clubs you know. Social clubs. One was a travel club to go somewhere every summer. Puerto Rico you know, Atlanta, you know, like that. Every once in a while we would go on a weekend trip somewhere to get away. After we had more children we'd go to the amusement parks. On the
weekends we used to go out and play ball and take picnics. We would have picnics in the park in the evenings. When he'd come in from work you know. I guess we did the same things that everybody else did. I don't know though because a lot of friends used to envy us because we did everything together. We used to do a lot of things together. In fact we still do. I do more by myself than he does because when he's off we're still together and when he's working (laughter) I'm just at my sister's house, my mother's house (laughter aw shucks). I was just thinking (laughter) he still wants to build a house even though we're old. He still has in his mind that he's going to build that house. I guess one day he'll get it. Even if he doesn't build it.