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Interview

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| of: | Jacqueline Stanley |
| by: | Randall Holder Rhonda Stokes |
| date: | 1986 July 18 |
| Q | How long have you or did you live or work in the Penn and North Community? |
| A | I've lived in the community for 40 years and worked in the area for 25 years. |
| Q | What are some of the places you have worked? |
| A | A Cleaners which used to be at 1827 N. Fulton Ave. This was my first job. I would scrub the floors, dry clean clothes, press clothes and I learned a lot of things while I was there. Ebony Town Store at North and Fulton which was a drug store, I was a general clerk the owner at that time was Harvey Robinson. Oxford Tavern at Fulton and North Ave., I was a barmaid and package good clerk. I've done volunteer work for the Penn North Organization as a Youth Coordinator, done projects for young people in the community. The pass 2 years I've been working close conjunction with Penn North and Lutheran Employment Services and we are working our of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, teaching employment skills |
| Q | What are some of your earliest memories about the community? |
| A | I started going to Bible School at 18 months at Union Baptist. It as really a nice place to live. Fulton Ave at that time had a park like it is on Eutaw Street. The park was in the center of the street with benches and trees up and down Fulton Ave. |
| Q | What changes have you seen on North Ave. that are positive and negative? |
| A | Negative side—lot of trash, alcoholics, people not having a place to live. Positive side—the late renovation that is going on. |
| Q | Describe what it was like living on North and Penn. |
| A | I never lived on Penn and North Ave. |
| Q | Can you describe what it was like living in the area? |
| A | It was a pretty well to do area years ago, a lot of school teachers, professional people lived in the intermediate area. I was only two blocks away from North and Penn. The community was warm and close. People looked out for each other. If you had a problem and somebody knew about it they would go around and knock on doors, just a general helping you. I don't see too much of that now. |
| Q | What year was that? |
| A | In the 50's. |

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| Q | What business have to seen come and go? |
| A | Actually the ones that are here now has been there for as long as I can remember. The library has been here for over 20 years. |
| Q | Why do you think business have stayed in the community? |
| A | That's a good question. I would say because the community is valuable. |
| Q | What are some positive ways you think this community can flourish again like it once did? |
| A | I think there is a two part responsibility. The community as a whole: property owners that live in the community and the business people who takes our money out of our community in to their community. This is what's happening because most of them do not live in this community but their shops are. What I like to see is a come together of business owners and community people and are working together. |
| Q | How has transportation changed over the years and how has it effect the community? |
| A | I can remember the trolley cars. Transportation is a lot better now. I think the subway is great. |
| Q | In what way do you think the subway is or has been a great help for the community? |
| A | We have a station at North and Penn Ave. and it is always kept clean and it is available. If a older person doesn't want to stand out on the corner for 20 minutes in the sun waiting for the bus, they can always get the subway and it will get you downtown in 4 or 5 minutes. |
| Q | What has the political climate been in the community present and pass? |
| A | I think this community does not get the representation that it should. I don't think the 7th district congressman has been very good. In congress he has done a lot of things. I personally just don't think he paid that much attention to this community. I believe, and that is for the Mayor on down and up, they totally ignore a large portion of the inter city of Baltimore. I have problems with that. I like to see something resolved and changes. We have a lot of problems with adolescent pregnancies, juvenile crime and drugs. I do not believe the police and politicians are doing their jobs. |
| Q | Did you attend school in the area? |
| A | I attend #104 for elementary located on Carey St., #132 on Mount Steet, #181 on Calhoun St. The after my first year at #181 they selected 79 honor students to attend #79. It was really a good experience and there was no fights. |
| Q | What can you say about the quality of education in the area? |
| A | Teachers are not as dedicated as they were when I was going to school. I think a lot of teachers are in their positions just to get a pay check. The Education Department is not doing their best to get books and supplies that are needed in the school systems. Right now to me the only school is #29 in this area is doing a great. A lot of work needs to be done in Baltimore City Public School system. |

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| Q | What impact do the churches has on the community? |
| A | The church do not have that much impact because the parents are not sending their children to church. When I was growing up we went to church and bible school. |
| Q | What was the rato of blacks, whites when you first moved here? |
| A | It was a predominantly white neighborhood. |
| Q | What was your experiences living in a predominantly white neighborhood? |
| A | It was beautiful. |
| Q | What was some of your favorite places you hoped wouldn't leave he community? |
| A | Met Theater, Druid Hill Park which is still here, and the library. |
| Q | Do you prefer the Penn and North area of yesteryears compared to today's? |
| A | Yes, yes. |
| Q | What changes would you like to see occur? |
| A | I would like to see some trees, cleaner area, drugs and crime cleanup, for the people who live on the streets I would like to see some of the vagrant houses turned into homes so these people can get the kind of things the evidently have not gotten in their lives. |