

John S. And Drucie R. Chase Building Archive  
bda\_cba093  
Ms. Patricia Calhoun Oral History

00:00:11.370 --> 00:00:19.128

Okay, Mrs. Calhoun, can you tell me  
your name and tell us about you?

00:00:19.128 --> 00:00:22.180

- My name is Patricia Calhoun.

00:00:22.715 --> 00:00:31.817

And, I'm the daughter of Theodore Calhoun  
and Thelma Calhoun. We're all TCC's.

00:00:31.817 --> 00:00:34.823

They're TCC, and I'm PCC,

00:00:34.823 --> 00:00:39.132

not just by coincidence.  
It wasn't planned, but.

00:00:39.132 --> 00:00:45.795

I grew up on Cotton Street, 1408 Cotton,

00:00:45.795 --> 00:00:50.047

which was the second house  
off the corner

00:00:50.047 --> 00:00:52.318

of Cotton Street and Comal.

00:00:52.988 --> 00:00:55.811

And, that was --

00:00:58.230 --> 00:01:01.166

It was a full neighborhood.

00:01:03.246 --> 00:01:06.065

I remember it being

00:01:06.065 --> 00:01:11.386

just an easy, safe neighborhood to be in.

00:01:12.846 --> 00:01:14.532

I went to nursery school

00:01:16.175 --> 00:01:22.799

around the corner at what was called  
the Howson Nursery School,

00:01:23.949 --> 00:01:28.678  
and that has now been  
converted to a residence,

00:01:29.452 --> 00:01:32.246  
but I believe it does have a marker.

00:01:34.236 --> 00:01:40.325  
And, there's a lot of history  
behind Howson that I don't know,

00:01:40.325 --> 00:01:43.474  
but I did come across  
something just recently.

00:01:44.654 --> 00:01:49.314  
And, it's on Angelina and just --

00:01:49.314 --> 00:01:52.582  
just north of Cotton, on Angelina.

00:01:53.062 --> 00:01:58.695  
And I have just kind of  
spotty memories of being there.

00:01:59.835 --> 00:02:03.544  
I know we had,  
every afternoon --

00:02:03.544 --> 00:02:06.617  
For some reason,  
I only remember

00:02:06.617 --> 00:02:08.895  
the food and the sleep.

00:02:08.895 --> 00:02:10.066  
(laughs)

00:02:10.066 --> 00:02:16.388  
But we had -- They put the cots out,  
and you had to take a nap.

00:02:17.338 --> 00:02:21.852  
Of course, I wasn't real interested  
in taking naps,

00:02:21.852 --> 00:02:24.812  
I was more interested in

going to the grocery store

00:02:24.812 --> 00:02:28.597  
and chitchatting with the owners  
of the grocery store up the street.

00:02:29.347 --> 00:02:36.959  
So, I don't have a lot of memory  
of this, but I remember being told

00:02:36.959 --> 00:02:42.640  
that they were always  
looking for me at naptime

00:02:42.640 --> 00:02:45.254  
because I disappeared,

00:02:45.254 --> 00:02:48.181  
and they'd always find me  
at the grocery store.

00:02:49.360 --> 00:02:54.006  
So, I've had this relationship  
with food, I guess, all of my life.

00:02:54.006 --> 00:03:04.127  
But, anyway, there was a family  
that lived, kind of, across the street,

00:03:04.127 --> 00:03:09.246  
on Angelina, from the nursery school,  
that owned a --

00:03:09.246 --> 00:03:14.044  
that had an ice cream shop  
in the front of their home.

00:03:14.767 --> 00:03:18.370  
And so, that's where  
we'd get ice cream.

00:03:18.370 --> 00:03:21.267  
The neighborhood  
was kind of --

00:03:21.267 --> 00:03:26.822  
the way it was designed  
was probably not designed,

00:03:28.142 --> 00:03:29.395

because

00:03:31.525 --> 00:03:34.029  
there would be houses,

00:03:34.029 --> 00:03:37.496  
and then there'd be a house  
towards the back,

00:03:37.496 --> 00:03:41.072  
almost the way we're  
doing now with the ADU's,

00:03:41.072 --> 00:03:46.910  
except this would be the next lot,  
and it would just be set back

00:03:46.910 --> 00:03:50.824  
where an ADU would  
typically be today,

00:03:51.164 --> 00:03:54.675  
and then the next house  
might be towards the front

00:03:54.675 --> 00:03:56.268  
of the next lot.

00:03:56.268 --> 00:04:03.901  
So, it was kind of a strange situation,  
but you know, everybody knew everybody.

00:04:08.539 --> 00:04:11.809  
And that was one of the things about

00:04:13.726 --> 00:04:17.658  
the segregated East side  
at that time, was that

00:04:17.658 --> 00:04:21.830  
because of segregation,  
we had to develop our own.

00:04:21.830 --> 00:04:27.052  
We had our own businesses,  
theaters, all kinds of businesses,

00:04:27.052 --> 00:04:32.660  
and I'm learning now through  
all of these different projects

00:04:33.540 --> 00:04:39.834  
of many more businesses  
than I ever thought there were,

00:04:39.834 --> 00:04:43.502  
existed, many before my time.

00:04:43.692 --> 00:04:46.269  
So, that was nursery school.

00:04:47.309 --> 00:04:51.017  
Kindergarten,  
I have just sketchy memories,

00:04:51.017 --> 00:04:53.109  
but that was at Greater Mount Zion.

00:04:55.137 --> 00:05:01.409  
And I think her name was Mrs. Sims.

00:05:03.816 --> 00:05:07.228  
Again, my memories are real sketchy.

00:05:08.578 --> 00:05:16.381  
I have little snapshots.  
Mrs. Sims was an older lady at that time.

00:05:16.381 --> 00:05:18.178  
At least, she appeared to be.

00:05:20.288 --> 00:05:23.653  
And she's one that I keep  
intending to research,

00:05:23.653 --> 00:05:25.164  
and I am going to do that.

00:05:26.894 --> 00:05:30.939  
I remember her as always wearing  
long black dresses

00:05:30.939 --> 00:05:36.549  
and black high-top shoes,  
so she was rather an imposing figure

00:05:36.549 --> 00:05:41.120  
for little kids  
and kind of a stern woman.

00:05:42.990 --> 00:05:49.682

And that's kind of my memory  
of Ms. Sims.

00:05:50.162 --> 00:05:58.193

And then, I was at Blackshear,  
and I spent my early years,

00:05:58.193 --> 00:06:02.263

first through sixth grade,  
at Blackshear,

00:06:02.973 --> 00:06:09.598

and that was with Mr. Rice.  
And he and my dad were good friends.

00:06:11.948 --> 00:06:20.090

The -- Blackshear was --  
All of our schools, really, were

00:06:20.090 --> 00:06:24.814

amazing schools for the time.  
While the physical --

00:06:27.378 --> 00:06:33.117

The facilities may have lacked some of  
the things that the white schools had,

00:06:33.117 --> 00:06:40.151

but our teachers were very well prepared,  
and you've probably heard this before,

00:06:40.151 --> 00:06:47.354

that during that time of segregation,  
our teachers had to go out of state

00:06:48.004 --> 00:06:57.037

to get their graduate degrees,  
and so our teachers were educated in

00:06:57.037 --> 00:07:02.900

the best schools in the country.  
So, typically, you know, Columbia,

00:07:02.900 --> 00:07:11.382

University of Michigan, the West Coast,  
East Coast, all of the top schools.

00:07:13.122 --> 00:07:16.078

Our teachers had their graduate degrees.

00:07:16.798 --> 00:07:24.361

So we didn't lack for  
the actual education.

00:07:26.031 --> 00:07:35.841

What was difficult was the administration  
having to fight constantly for the tools.

00:07:36.941 --> 00:07:43.978

And that was the big inequity.  
- Mm-hmm (acknowledgment).

00:07:44.858 --> 00:07:49.810

- My dad was principal  
of Kealing Junior High.

00:07:50.280 --> 00:07:58.901

And when -- Well, just to back up  
a little bit about my dad,

00:07:59.631 --> 00:08:04.593

my dad came from East Texas,  
from the Corsicana area,

00:08:05.303 --> 00:08:12.203

and he left home at probably --  
It was around 13.

00:08:13.073 --> 00:08:21.595

His dad had died. He was in fifth grade,  
and he left home and went into the city

00:08:21.595 --> 00:08:28.591

by himself and enrolled in public school  
because he was intent

00:08:28.591 --> 00:08:34.398

on getting his education.  
He had -- I think there were 10 of them.

00:08:35.038 --> 00:08:46.469

And he finished high school, and he went  
to Bishop College in Marshall.

00:08:46.829 --> 00:08:50.293

I don't know how he got  
from one place to the other,

00:08:50.293 --> 00:08:55.307

but he managed,  
and so he graduated from Bishop.

00:08:55.657 --> 00:09:02.160  
And he left Bishop, teaching.  
He took a teaching position in Louisiana.

00:09:03.310 --> 00:09:09.181  
And then came from -- He was in Louisiana  
maybe a year or two

00:09:09.181 --> 00:09:12.311  
and then came back to Texas.  
- Mm-hmm (acknowledgment).

00:09:12.311 --> 00:09:19.694  
- When he came to Texas, he was  
the football coach at Anderson

00:09:20.134 --> 00:09:22.785  
and head of the math department.

00:09:23.865 --> 00:09:35.087  
And he was there for a few years, and in,  
I think, 1939, I believe, was when

00:09:35.087 --> 00:09:45.562  
he became principal at Kealing, following  
I.Q. Hurdle, who was the first principal.

00:09:46.872 --> 00:09:52.815  
And so, I was a teacher's kid,  
a principal's kid.

00:09:53.475 --> 00:10:01.939  
My mother finished from Prairie View.  
She was a graduate of Anderson as well.

00:10:02.719 --> 00:10:13.545  
And she taught -- Actually, she was  
in the county schools.

00:10:14.135 --> 00:10:22.071  
And my mom was a supervisor of teachers  
in Travis County.

00:10:22.071 --> 00:10:25.591  
And so, she traveled around  
to all the neighboring,



00:10:25.591 --> 00:10:30.442  
like Webberville, and Manor,  
and Pilot Knob,

00:10:30.442 --> 00:10:34.973  
all those places, she traveled,  
visiting the schools.

00:10:35.393 --> 00:10:43.170  
And I do remember, she was called --  
And I'm not sure how this is spelled --

00:10:45.170 --> 00:10:49.488  
you know, after people are gone,  
you realize

00:10:49.488 --> 00:10:51.603  
all the things you wished you had asked.

00:10:53.463 --> 00:10:57.892  
I remember, they called her  
the Jeanes Supervisor,

00:10:57.892 --> 00:11:03.724  
but I'm not sure whether that was  
"j" or "g" or why it was Jeanes,

00:11:03.724 --> 00:11:06.814  
but I just remember --  
And it might not have been Jeanes.

00:11:06.814 --> 00:11:10.016  
It just may have been in my head,  
you know,

00:11:10.016 --> 00:11:12.333  
what I was interpreting them to say.

00:11:14.025 --> 00:11:22.095  
But her office, If you could call it such,  
was in the county court house.

00:11:24.031 --> 00:11:28.167  
And -- What is that? Lavaca?  
No, Guadalupe?

00:11:28.677 --> 00:11:30.891  
I think that's Guadalupe.  
That's Guadalupe.

00:11:33.561 --> 00:11:39.127  
And I remember going there sometimes  
to meet my mother after school.

00:11:39.577 --> 00:11:45.176  
Her office was a corner  
of the book stacks.

00:11:47.096 --> 00:11:54.364  
I don't know what the -- I remember,  
her supervisor's name was Mr. Popham,

00:11:54.744 --> 00:12:00.468  
who was really a good man,  
and they had a good relationship.

00:12:01.028 --> 00:12:08.382  
But I do remember that she'd wind back  
through this room of book stacks,

00:12:08.382 --> 00:12:12.415  
and back in the little corner  
was my mom's desk.

00:12:13.925 --> 00:12:17.938  
And that was her office while, of course,  
everybody else was up front.

00:12:18.162 --> 00:12:23.277  
-Mm-hmm (acknowledgement).  
- She was there for a number of years.

00:12:24.637 --> 00:12:32.047  
These were my early years,  
and my dad did his graduate work

00:12:32.047 --> 00:12:36.695  
at the University of Michigan.  
And that was in the '30s.

00:12:37.424 --> 00:12:47.860  
And I do have his degree from there,  
and my mom followed him,

00:12:49.610 --> 00:12:54.885  
and did her graduate work  
at the University of Michigan as well.

00:12:55.418 --> 00:12:57.999  
And so, she would go in the summers.

00:12:58.689 --> 00:13:06.693  
One thing my dad usually did was,  
almost every summer, he'd find some place

00:13:06.973 --> 00:13:14.425  
to take a class or to do some study.  
So that would be our summer vacation.

00:13:15.186 --> 00:13:19.925  
And so, we'd travel  
just about every summer

00:13:19.925 --> 00:13:23.938  
somewhere for them to take  
some kind of course,

00:13:23.938 --> 00:13:27.008  
so when I was in kindergarten,

00:13:27.008 --> 00:13:33.709  
mother was doing her graduate work  
at University of Michigan,

00:13:33.709 --> 00:13:39.663  
and so I was enrolled in the  
University of Michigan kindergarten.

00:13:42.093 --> 00:13:42.864  
(keyboard keys)

00:13:43.214 --> 00:13:48.816  
So, when I came back,  
I was in third grade.

00:13:50.576 --> 00:13:57.369  
So I skipped a grade, and I do remember  
my parents debating years later,

00:13:57.839 --> 00:14:00.227  
"I don't know if that  
was such a good idea."

00:14:00.227 --> 00:14:04.664  
(interviewer laughing)  
Because it put me, age-wise,

00:14:05.774 --> 00:14:14.913  
the youngest of all my peers,  
and so it was a little difficult

00:14:14.913 --> 00:14:16.323  
in that respect.

00:14:16.323 --> 00:14:21.168  
There were things that, you know,  
I just wasn't allowed to do

00:14:21.168 --> 00:14:24.826  
that my friends were doing.  
They might have been going out,

00:14:24.826 --> 00:14:28.695  
but I was still, you know, 15.  
(laughs)

00:14:28.695 --> 00:14:35.308  
And so, that was not the thing to do.  
I took -- I remember, in high school,

00:14:35.308 --> 00:14:40.174  
I took driver's ed. But I couldn't drive.  
I couldn't really drive

00:14:40.174 --> 00:14:45.150  
because I was too young to get a license,  
so it was just something, you know,

00:14:45.150 --> 00:14:48.214  
a course that you took.  
It was the right time to take it,

00:14:48.214 --> 00:14:54.224  
but it didn't do me any good.  
So, little things like that.

00:14:56.414 --> 00:15:06.493  
I can recall the -- I can remember,  
not specifically, but I do remember,

00:15:06.493 --> 00:15:14.604  
occasionally, mother and dad discussing  
their experiences at U of M

00:15:14.604 --> 00:15:22.584  
being, you know, one of few --  
very few Blacks on campus.

00:15:23.374 --> 00:15:31.027  
And I -- when I finished Anderson,

and again, I apologize,

00:15:31.027 --> 00:15:33.493

I'm jumping back and forth.

- It's okay.

00:15:35.453 --> 00:15:41.585

- I went to Michigan State, and I was kind of the traitor in the family

00:15:41.585 --> 00:15:54.567

because when my dad -- after he enrolled in University of Michigan, he saw that

00:15:54.567 --> 00:16:00.993

his youngest brother went. So, he helped his youngest brother go through U of M.

00:16:00.993 --> 00:16:09.058

And then, my mother's sister, you know, since mother and dad were there,

00:16:09.058 --> 00:16:14.994

she went, and then her husband went. And then, my cousins went.

00:16:15.612 --> 00:16:23.338

So, they were all -- and their kids. So, a lot of U of M grads in the family.

00:16:23.662 --> 00:16:29.139

And I was the traitor who went to the cow college, Michigan State.

00:16:29.139 --> 00:16:33.428

- Mm-hmm (acknowledgment).

- But, as it turned out, it was, you know,

00:16:33.428 --> 00:16:38.059

a good place for me.

It had a better school of design,

00:16:38.059 --> 00:16:40.365

which was what I ended up doing

00:16:41.875 --> 00:16:53.748

But, even when I went, there were 300 -- I think just a little over 300

00:16:53.748 --> 00:16:57.923

African American students  
out of about 40,000.

00:16:59.043 --> 00:17:06.289  
So, it's a -- It was an experience.  
Even in Michigan, of course, we know

00:17:06.289 --> 00:17:15.773  
that racism is everywhere.  
It wasn't as overt, but you felt it.

00:17:17.443 --> 00:17:21.477  
My degree was in  
the College of Home Economics

00:17:21.477 --> 00:17:27.203  
which I think it has now been removed.  
That was a fight through the years,

00:17:27.203 --> 00:17:32.025  
to remove design from home economics  
because you still had to do

00:17:32.025 --> 00:17:42.292  
the home economics core in addition to  
the other requirements for design.

00:17:42.292 --> 00:17:45.959  
And it was very difficult  
to get it all in.

00:17:46.999 --> 00:17:54.290  
But the college of home economics  
was a very difficult school in that

00:17:55.180 --> 00:18:03.588  
there was just a lot of racism.  
And there were -- I was the second

00:18:04.308 --> 00:18:10.612  
African American to go into  
the School of Design.

00:18:11.132 --> 00:18:17.054  
The first was not successful.  
She graduated,

00:18:17.054 --> 00:18:19.526  
but she wasn't successful in the field.

00:18:19.976 --> 00:18:23.948

And so, I was discouraged  
every step of the way.

00:18:23.948 --> 00:18:26.893

You know, "Don't you want to change?"  
"Don't you want change?"

00:18:26.893 --> 00:18:30.947

"You're not going to make it."  
- Uh-huh.

00:18:30.947 --> 00:18:34.700

- But, of course, you know,  
like many people, when you're told

00:18:34.700 --> 00:18:37.901

that you can't do something  
and that it's not going to work,

00:18:37.901 --> 00:18:40.094

it makes you fight harder to do it.

00:18:42.794 --> 00:18:46.334

Looking back on it, I think,

00:18:46.334 --> 00:18:49.910

"Sure would have been  
a lot easier if I had changed."

00:18:49.910 --> 00:18:57.647

But there were some tough times  
in the School of Home Economics that

00:18:58.407 --> 00:19:02.606

just was very difficult  
to do anything right.

00:19:03.496 --> 00:19:07.563

You were always scrutinized  
a little differently.

00:19:08.193 --> 00:19:15.336

But, anyway, made it out and had  
a lot of good experiences with the friends

00:19:15.336 --> 00:19:18.436

that I did make there.

00:19:18.966 --> 00:19:30.791

But, coming back to Austin,  
the one thing that I want to emphasize

00:19:30.791 --> 00:19:40.119  
and I did say: that our schools were  
really good schools, and one of the things

00:19:40.119 --> 00:19:47.241  
that desegregation did --  
And there were several things,

00:19:47.497 --> 00:19:48.730  
as I see it.

00:19:51.866 --> 00:19:54.121  
It disrupted our community.

00:19:55.125 --> 00:20:01.868  
When you have a cohesive community,  
which we did,

00:20:04.378 --> 00:20:08.779  
then you have support of everybody.

00:20:10.269 --> 00:20:15.593  
As a kid -- And this is  
a double-edged sword --

00:20:15.593 --> 00:20:21.614  
As a kid, if anything happened to you,  
no matter where you were,

00:20:22.984 --> 00:20:24.974  
everybody was going to know about it.

00:20:25.544 --> 00:20:28.341  
And, certainly, your parents  
were going to know about it

00:20:28.801 --> 00:20:31.450  
because everybody supported you.

00:20:32.258 --> 00:20:39.630  
And I think about the teachers as well,  
the staff.

00:20:41.300 --> 00:20:46.347  
They had strong support  
in our school systems.



00:20:46.347 --> 00:20:56.028  
Well, with desegregation, unfortunately,  
it was looked at as,

00:20:56.028 --> 00:21:04.232  
"Well, certainly, your schools  
are not up to the standards

00:21:04.232 --> 00:21:09.025  
"of the white schools,  
so your schools should close,

00:21:09.025 --> 00:21:11.545  
and you guys come over here."

00:21:13.385 --> 00:21:15.755  
As I think back on it, I think --

00:21:16.115 --> 00:21:22.176  
I wonder if it might not have been  
more successful

00:21:23.316 --> 00:21:28.904  
if it had been a blend of both, you know?  
Your students come here,

00:21:28.904 --> 00:21:34.894  
some of our students go there,  
but you have this good mix.

00:21:36.454 --> 00:21:41.241  
What happened was that teachers  
were dispersed all over the city,

00:21:41.671 --> 00:21:47.451  
so Black teachers didn't have the support  
that they were accustomed to.

00:21:49.081 --> 00:21:54.785  
White teachers, in many cases,  
had this idea

00:21:54.785 --> 00:21:58.408  
that Black students were inferior  
or couldn't learn,

00:21:58.968 --> 00:22:09.024  
and then you had discipline problems,  
and who's going to take the time

00:22:09.736 --> 00:22:14.436  
to try to understand  
what the real problem is?

00:22:14.436 --> 00:22:18.203  
"You're just a bad kid,  
and you need to go away."

00:22:19.593 --> 00:22:25.360  
And so, those are the kinds of things  
that I think happened,

00:22:25.360 --> 00:22:29.775  
and we really lost  
our sense of community.

00:22:32.505 --> 00:22:37.615  
And that's hard to get back.

00:22:37.615 --> 00:22:44.728  
It's really kind of a complex situation.  
It's very simple, on the one hand.

00:22:45.248 --> 00:22:52.091  
You know? If we follow God's principles  
that you love first,

00:22:54.571 --> 00:22:57.056  
then things fall into place.

00:22:58.026 --> 00:23:09.647  
But, anyway, kind of got off track there,  
but that's kind of how I see --

00:23:10.187 --> 00:23:17.911  
looking back, that we lost  
our sense of community.

00:23:23.221 --> 00:23:32.053  
There were, just for an example,  
within our community up the street was --

00:23:32.053 --> 00:23:36.336  
in the next block  
from where I lived was --

00:23:36.336 --> 00:23:41.187  
and this was the corner  
of San Bernard and Cotton --

00:23:43.780 --> 00:23:50.109  
was one of the African American dentists,  
Doctor Hammond, and his family.

00:23:50.619 --> 00:23:56.681  
And then, coming back down the street  
towards my house was the Youngbloods.

00:23:57.071 --> 00:24:03.565  
And, while Mr. Youngblood  
was a hotel employee --

00:24:03.565 --> 00:24:11.939  
And, at that time, the major careers,  
I guess you might say, were hotels,

00:24:14.569 --> 00:24:26.403  
either chefs or-- What do you call them?  
The attendants at hotels --

00:24:30.503 --> 00:24:32.193  
and the education system.

00:24:32.193 --> 00:24:37.007  
So educators and physicians and the rail.

00:24:38.867 --> 00:24:45.661  
And those were the professions  
that most people had

00:24:45.661 --> 00:24:47.571  
when I was very very young.

00:24:47.571 --> 00:24:52.146  
And then, it became government positions,  
like post office.

00:24:54.696 --> 00:25:03.149  
But, in any case, Kealing was just around  
the corner from my house,

00:25:03.809 --> 00:25:10.955  
and so my dad was one of those --

00:25:10.955 --> 00:25:20.605  
like Mr. Rice. I say both of them  
were keenly interested and dedicated

00:25:20.605 --> 00:25:27.375  
to the education of their students

and dedicated to innovation

00:25:27.375 --> 00:25:36.098

and trying to find ways to bring  
the experiences that were happening

00:25:36.098 --> 00:25:40.593

on the other side of town  
into our community,

00:25:41.073 --> 00:25:44.208

and I think Blacks sure had --

00:25:44.933 --> 00:25:56.313

we had a great art teacher, Ms. Kincheon,  
and I think they're part of family --

00:25:56.313 --> 00:26:00.339

Kincheonville, I think, was one of  
the early settlements.

00:26:02.974 --> 00:26:08.739

We had a kiln in the basement,  
so we had ceramics,

00:26:08.739 --> 00:26:13.322

and we had our own kiln  
where we could fire the ceramics

00:26:13.322 --> 00:26:16.242

and make our own little projects.

00:26:17.542 --> 00:26:19.167

That was unusual.

00:26:19.167 --> 00:26:26.139

I think Mr. Rice actually started --  
I did make some notes,

00:26:30.179 --> 00:26:31.896

I forgot to take them out.

00:26:35.066 --> 00:26:39.043

On the cafeteria, we had --

00:26:39.953 --> 00:26:45.476

Yes we had a full cafeteria,  
which was one of the first,

00:26:46.166 --> 00:26:50.338

and we had, you know,  
hot meals every day.

00:26:54.038 --> 00:26:59.670  
We had afternoon breaks, and  
we always got a bottle of milk and snacks,

00:27:02.040 --> 00:27:07.954  
so we had a dental program and --

00:27:07.954 --> 00:27:13.274  
Up on San Bernard again --  
Just up the street from where I lived --

00:27:14.914 --> 00:27:16.475  
was Doctor Roberts.

00:27:17.155 --> 00:27:19.721  
And he was an obstetrician.

00:27:21.431 --> 00:27:28.883  
I was born in that clinic, and he had --  
I'm not sure if he --

00:27:29.466 --> 00:27:33.405  
I say he was an obstetrician.  
That's a fact I need to check,

00:27:33.405 --> 00:27:39.584  
but I know we had  
a dental program at Blackshear.

00:27:41.714 --> 00:27:47.287  
So, we had a professional librarian.

00:27:47.767 --> 00:27:56.080  
And, again, going back to the fact that  
our teachers were educated all over

00:27:56.080 --> 00:28:04.588  
the country, I can't recall where her  
degree was from, but Algerene Craig,

00:28:06.038 --> 00:28:11.059  
and I think her house has a marker  
on Chicon.

00:28:12.329 --> 00:28:20.430  
She was our librarian,  
and we had a well-developed music program.

00:28:20.430 --> 00:28:27.046  
Mrs. Van Dyke, Juanita Van Dyke,  
was our music teacher. So --

00:28:28.536 --> 00:28:31.895  
And then, it goes on to Kealing.

00:28:31.895 --> 00:28:36.760  
Again, we had great teachers  
and all kinds of programs.

00:28:36.760 --> 00:28:45.306  
I do remember, my dad used to try to get  
summer enrichment programs

00:28:46.746 --> 00:28:51.435  
for the students and I remember,  
one summer --

00:28:51.815 --> 00:28:55.385  
I can't remember (inaudible)

00:28:56.845 --> 00:29:01.903  
was UGH, I think it might've been UGH,  
UJH.

00:29:03.860 --> 00:29:08.865  
But it was a French study,  
studies of French,

00:29:08.865 --> 00:29:13.150  
and so there were all kinds  
of things like that

00:29:13.150 --> 00:29:20.037  
that both the elementary,  
junior high, and high school

00:29:21.217 --> 00:29:28.220  
always tried to make certain that we had  
the advantages, the same kinds of programs

00:29:28.770 --> 00:29:32.496  
the other schools had.

00:29:32.496 --> 00:29:37.429  
But, again, like I say, the facilities and  
the tools were not always there,

00:29:37.429 --> 00:29:43.739  
and it was always an issue  
of keeping those standards.

00:29:47.229 --> 00:29:55.196  
Let's see, is there a particular question  
that I may not have covered ...

00:29:56.816 --> 00:30:00.440  
- I want to pivot back-  
- ... that you want me to --

00:30:01.180 --> 00:30:05.131  
- Yeah, sorry, can you hear me?  
- Yes.

00:30:05.401 --> 00:30:09.442  
- Okay, I wanted to pivot back  
to your father

00:30:09.442 --> 00:30:13.410  
and explore his connection  
to the Chase building.

00:30:13.410 --> 00:30:16.330  
Could you expand on that  
a little bit?

00:30:20.930 --> 00:30:29.060  
- Okay, he was president of  
the state teacher's association,

00:30:31.020 --> 00:30:35.048  
I think, and I'll have  
to double-check that.

00:30:35.048 --> 00:30:39.656  
When I go through the document,  
I can confirm that.

00:30:41.066 --> 00:30:47.559  
I think it was '63, '64  
or '63 through '65, something like that.

00:30:47.559 --> 00:30:50.907  
And, when --

00:30:52.567 --> 00:30:56.417  
During that time, of course,  
I was in high school then,

00:30:57.437 --> 00:31:04.859  
so my focus was on getting to be  
a senior and getting out.

00:31:06.499 --> 00:31:13.612  
But I do remember, through the years  
prior to that, prior to his presidency,

00:31:14.472 --> 00:31:21.443  
all of the others who came before him,  
we knew.

00:31:21.443 --> 00:31:24.096  
We knew the families because --

00:31:25.286 --> 00:31:34.496  
And this goes back to --  
It wasn't the Green Book.

00:31:35.276 --> 00:31:39.151  
You're familiar with the Green Book?  
- I think so.

00:31:41.504 --> 00:31:46.060  
- As I mentioned, we used to travel  
during the summers when I was growing up.

00:31:48.729 --> 00:31:50.925  
Blacks had networks.

00:31:51.695 --> 00:31:56.847  
I don't remember my dad  
actually having a published book,

00:31:57.767 --> 00:32:05.104  
but he had notes, or my mom kept them.  
I don't recall.

00:32:05.524 --> 00:32:10.046  
But, everywhere we went,  
he had to plan the trip

00:32:10.936 --> 00:32:20.479  
so that we would travel  
so many hours.

00:32:23.783 --> 00:32:29.297  
to get from this point to that point.  
Of course, we couldn't stay in hotels,



00:32:29.297 --> 00:32:32.259

and so you had to plan  
carefully your stops.

00:32:32.869 --> 00:32:39.268

And that's the way we traveled,  
because we always traveled by car.

00:32:39.268 --> 00:32:45.999

Now, on occasions, my mom's family had  
dispersed to the Midwest and the East,

00:32:45.999 --> 00:32:51.012

and so she had sisters and brothers in  
Chicago and New York,

00:32:51.592 --> 00:32:58.801

so we would occasionally travel  
to those two cities by train.

00:32:59.501 --> 00:33:06.715

But our summers, we typically  
were driving. My dad loved to drive.

00:33:07.235 --> 00:33:12.964

And so, in any case,  
as we traveled that way,

00:33:15.265 --> 00:33:20.321

stopping with families,  
other families were doing the same thing,

00:33:20.321 --> 00:33:24.741

and so our house became  
one of those stops

00:33:24.741 --> 00:33:29.811

where people would come  
and spend the night.

00:33:31.141 --> 00:33:38.927

Typically, they were friends and not like  
the Green Book where it could be anybody.

00:33:39.237 --> 00:33:45.611

But my dad had just built this network  
across the country of people he knew.

00:33:46.801 --> 00:33:57.437

He was a rather gregarious personality.  
So he made friends very, very easily.

00:33:57.977 --> 00:34:06.711  
One of the little side stories.  
We were in Los Angeles, I think it was.

00:34:08.811 --> 00:34:17.765  
I think I was around 12 or 13 because  
I do remember there was an art contest

00:34:17.765 --> 00:34:22.816  
the newspaper was sponsoring,  
so I entered it, and I won.

00:34:24.146 --> 00:34:33.534  
But my -- We had gotten tickets  
to a show, a TV show.

00:34:33.534 --> 00:34:40.310  
This was the early days of TV.  
I think it was Art Linkletter.

00:34:41.370 --> 00:34:44.448  
You probably have no clue  
as to who that is.

00:34:44.448 --> 00:34:52.028  
(both laugh)  
But he started this show with children,

00:34:52.028 --> 00:34:57.202  
interviewing children. Somebody --  
I cant remember who's revived it,

00:34:57.202 --> 00:35:02.481  
but in recent years, it's come back.  
But, anyway,

00:35:03.557 --> 00:35:07.558  
I think it was that show,  
but it was a TV show.

00:35:07.978 --> 00:35:13.607  
And we were all standing in line,  
my mother and dad, and myself,

00:35:14.047 --> 00:35:21.281  
and somehow, my dad got to talking  
with folks, which he always did.

00:35:21.281 --> 00:35:25.191

I mean, he was suddenly  
best friends with everybody.

00:35:25.621 --> 00:35:31.190

And, as we started to move in,  
mother and I realized

00:35:31.190 --> 00:35:34.467

that my dad wasn't with us anymore.  
- Mm-hmm (acknowledgment).

00:35:34.467 --> 00:35:36.518

We'd gotten separated.

00:35:37.605 --> 00:35:42.849

And so, we got seated,  
and we looked around,

00:35:42.849 --> 00:35:48.589

and there my dad was, you know,  
in another section, seated.

00:35:49.379 --> 00:35:54.984

And, when they gave away prizes --

00:35:55.579 --> 00:36:05.131

And so, the interview --  
The person who was doing the giveaways

00:36:06.131 --> 00:36:09.264

interviewed the person  
sitting next to my dad,

00:36:09.264 --> 00:36:12.500

which of course should have been my mom,  
(both laugh)

00:36:12.500 --> 00:36:15.567

but it wasn't,  
and she won a fur coat.

00:36:15.917 --> 00:36:22.864

- Oh no.  
- And so we never let him live that down,

00:36:22.864 --> 00:36:27.697

that he was the cause of my mom  
not getting her fur coat.

00:36:28.747 --> 00:36:42.145  
But in any case, as he worked with the  
Teachers Association... and I'm not sure

00:36:42.145 --> 00:36:47.900  
what positions he... as I go through the  
documents, I might be reminded

00:36:47.900 --> 00:36:52.324  
of what positions he held before  
becoming president.

00:36:52.324 --> 00:37:00.936  
But Vernon McDaniel was one person that  
I remember very well who was always

00:37:01.776 --> 00:37:12.735  
in town. The Jaquiez, they were always  
at the house. I think they were...

00:37:15.045 --> 00:37:19.314  
I can't remember exactly what part of  
Texas they were from.

00:37:19.314 --> 00:37:29.961  
The JJ Wilsons, they were from... he was  
principle of Moore High in Waco

00:37:29.961 --> 00:37:36.513  
and they were very good friends of...  
In retirement they used to,

00:37:36.513 --> 00:37:41.763  
my dad and my mom would drive to  
Salado, and they would drive

00:37:41.763 --> 00:37:48.535  
from Waco to Salado when they'd  
meet for dinner, periodically.

00:37:48.535 --> 00:37:54.406  
So that was a friendship  
that stayed through the years.

00:37:55.316 --> 00:38:02.508  
So our home was kind of like a hub  
during the time of The Association,

00:38:02.508 --> 00:38:06.036

the building there on Navasota,

00:38:07.516 --> 00:38:11.445  
through the years, even before  
he became president

00:38:11.445 --> 00:38:15.035  
and of course after his presidency.

00:38:17.655 --> 00:38:24.941  
I do remember, just a snapshot of  
accompanying him to --

00:38:24.941 --> 00:38:28.392  
and I've been trying to straighten  
this out in my mind,

00:38:28.392 --> 00:38:33.156  
so I'll have to do more research  
to know exactly,

00:38:33.156 --> 00:38:37.253  
but it was one of the conferences that  
took place in Houston.

00:38:37.763 --> 00:38:46.645  
And at that time... so it probably was in  
the mid '60s or the early '60s

00:38:46.645 --> 00:38:49.812  
because it was at a Hilton Hotel.

00:38:49.812 --> 00:38:52.633  
I think that was my first time  
being in a Hilton.

00:38:54.013 --> 00:38:57.637  
And it was quite a conference.

00:39:00.487 --> 00:39:14.213  
But those are basically... I remember  
that he and my mom were always

00:39:14.213 --> 00:39:20.919  
involved in pulling together reports  
or doing something.

00:39:22.379 --> 00:39:26.921  
And I guess my mom kind of became  
his secretary

00:39:26.921 --> 00:39:28.827  
(women laugh)

00:39:28.827 --> 00:39:31.886  
during some of those times.  
Of course he did have

00:39:31.886 --> 00:39:40.210  
a good support system and secretarial  
staff, clerical staff at Kealing

00:39:40.210 --> 00:39:42.267  
who were very, very helpful.

00:39:45.820 --> 00:39:49.186  
- What were we talking about again?  
I think you were mentioning...

00:39:51.666 --> 00:39:59.265  
- I think I was just kind of... Oh!  
I think was going to backtrack a minute

00:39:59.265 --> 00:40:12.938  
and just mention that when I went into  
Kealing, Anderson was up the street.

00:40:13.468 --> 00:40:16.921  
Kealing is where it is now.  
- Mm-hmm.

00:40:16.921 --> 00:40:20.502  
- Of course, the building,  
has been renovated.

00:40:20.502 --> 00:40:37.207  
But at that time, Anderson was  
in the next block.

00:40:37.607 --> 00:40:42.771  
- Mm-hmm.  
- And then Anderson built where it is now,

00:40:42.771 --> 00:40:49.848  
or where they're renovating for --  
What is it going to be? Eastside,

00:40:50.808 --> 00:40:55.871  
which is still a sore spot or all of us  
who went to Anderson.

00:40:56.871 --> 00:41:03.452  
That it would be... as I look back on it,  
of course, I wasn't here

00:41:03.452 --> 00:41:05.411  
when all of this took place.

00:41:09.831 --> 00:41:18.475  
But when they decided to close Anderson  
and move to a new school on the West side,

00:41:19.475 --> 00:41:24.946  
I just think it's so unfortunate that they  
chose to name it Anderson.

00:41:25.656 --> 00:41:32.294  
Because it has no relation to Anderson.  
Ans now that they finally decided to

00:41:36.274 --> 00:41:45.660  
renovate and use the Anderson site,  
it should still be named Anderson.

00:41:47.040 --> 00:41:55.728  
Because it's... the school colors are  
different and all of the things that

00:41:55.728 --> 00:42:04.116  
make it what it was are not there, it just  
would have been so simple

00:42:04.116 --> 00:42:10.307  
if they had just left the name alone,  
named the school on the West side

00:42:10.307 --> 00:42:15.918  
something else, it would have its own  
identity, rather than trying to mesh

00:42:15.918 --> 00:42:22.614  
the old Anderson identity with this  
new Anderson that they don't even know

00:42:22.614 --> 00:42:27.035  
who Anderson is, it's just a name  
for those kids.

00:42:28.485 --> 00:42:36.367  
And it just makes for lots of confusion.

And once again, part of the community

00:42:36.367 --> 00:42:45.380  
history is lost, and now it's just a  
big puzzle as to how to bring it back.

00:42:45.710 --> 00:42:49.847  
So you're going to have, now it's going  
to be Eastside but its going to have

00:42:49.847 --> 00:42:55.620  
Anderson memorabilia.  
So, do you take the memorabilia from

00:42:55.620 --> 00:43:00.867  
the West side and add it to the  
memorabilia that's... You know,

00:43:00.867 --> 00:43:06.500  
It just makes for real confusion when it  
really didn't have to be that way.

00:43:06.500 --> 00:43:16.678  
But in any case, when Anderson built,  
then Kealing took in that building

00:43:16.678 --> 00:43:20.204  
so Kealing then had two campuses.

00:43:21.544 --> 00:43:28.313  
The one on Pennsylvania and down to Comal  
and the other one...

00:43:29.043 --> 00:43:33.000  
I cant remember the street.  
But across the street.

00:43:33.630 --> 00:43:39.194  
So, I think that's what I was  
starting to mention.

00:43:39.194 --> 00:43:43.255  
But going back to  
The State Teachers Association,

00:43:44.275 --> 00:43:53.902  
I just always remember it  
being a rather... What's the word?

00:43:54.672 --> 00:43:57.949



For lack of a better word, vibrant time  
in the community

00:43:57.949 --> 00:44:05.406  
because all these educators were coming  
in from other cities around the state

00:44:05.406 --> 00:44:09.409  
and convening here.  
And there was always that activity.

00:44:09.409 --> 00:44:13.540  
Even when it wasn't a conference or  
a major meeting.

00:44:13.540 --> 00:44:17.156  
There was still people coming in and out,  
coming to town, you know

00:44:17.156 --> 00:44:19.539  
who had responsibilities there.

00:44:21.079 --> 00:44:28.215  
So a lot of great friendships that  
remained throughout

00:44:28.215 --> 00:44:35.508  
were formed with that, in that building.  
And with that building being there.

00:44:36.538 --> 00:44:40.162  
One of the things that is kind of funny...

00:44:42.392 --> 00:44:48.948  
And I guess, as you're young, things  
always seem bigger than they really are.

00:44:48.948 --> 00:44:57.362  
And as I have been back in Austin and  
drive by, I look at it

00:44:57.362 --> 00:45:02.770  
and I still can't think that it was that  
small of a building.

00:45:03.650 --> 00:45:06.474  
It always seemed bigger to me.

00:45:07.524 --> 00:45:13.794  
And maybe that was the activity that was

going on within it or maybe it was just

00:45:16.084 --> 00:45:24.340  
that was the scale of things at that time.  
And today, everything's so much bigger

00:45:24.340 --> 00:45:29.993  
and better, so to speak, that it makes  
that building look really, really tiny.

00:45:32.783 --> 00:45:46.388  
But I think when I go through  
the files that I've gotten from Dallas

00:45:46.388 --> 00:45:52.886  
from my dad, will be little bits of  
information. Like I said to Stephanie,

00:45:52.886 --> 00:46:00.452  
they're largely the financial reports  
during that time, the minutes of some

00:46:00.452 --> 00:46:04.961  
of the meetings that took place  
during that time.

00:46:04.961 --> 00:46:12.991  
But it is, looking at some of the minutes,  
the items that come up in the agenda

00:46:12.991 --> 00:46:18.406  
are interesting. One of the things that  
you heard me talk about with Stephanie

00:46:18.406 --> 00:46:22.350  
is the credit union.  
There was a credit union for

00:46:22.350 --> 00:46:29.895  
African American teachers, and I know  
my dad and my mom worked with that

00:46:31.135 --> 00:46:37.397  
for many years. I don't remember when  
it was started and I'm not sure

00:46:39.217 --> 00:46:44.439  
what institution.  
I know my dad had formed

00:46:44.439 --> 00:46:52.423  
really strong relationships with several  
financial institutions at that time,

00:46:52.423 --> 00:46:59.053  
and several of us are trying to  
resear -- none of them are around anymore.

00:46:59.873 --> 00:47:08.016  
Savings and loans, primarily, and one  
bank. So we're trying to research that

00:47:08.016 --> 00:47:15.911  
to see if we can find the records,  
actual records of the credit union.

00:47:15.911 --> 00:47:25.546  
Unfortunately, I don't have those.  
My dad became very ill when I --

00:47:26.386 --> 00:47:34.540  
well, I did not return to Texas after  
I graduated from Michigan State.

00:47:34.540 --> 00:47:45.247  
I remained in -- well, my first job was  
in Chicago and then I married and went

00:47:45.247 --> 00:47:51.502  
back to Michigan and lived in Detroit  
for many, many years.

00:47:51.502 --> 00:48:03.108  
So, after retirement, my dad was diagnosed  
with Alzheimer's and that was a real tough

00:48:03.108 --> 00:48:14.993  
time for my mom, and for him.  
So, a lot of things were lost at that time

00:48:16.083 --> 00:48:22.827  
just because there wasn't anyone here  
to take care of it and to sort it and

00:48:22.827 --> 00:48:30.648  
all the things, papers and things, that  
he had brought with him from school,

00:48:32.048 --> 00:48:37.936  
as well as probably records from

different meetings and things of

00:48:37.936 --> 00:48:45.851  
that nature, were lost.  
So, that's why we're having to research.

00:48:45.851 --> 00:48:56.525  
I just remember that they worked the  
credit union and I believe my dad started

00:48:56.525 --> 00:49:03.095  
the credit union and, as I mentioned  
earlier, he was always looking for ways

00:49:03.095 --> 00:49:11.335  
to equalize our experiences.  
So that was something that was always

00:49:13.325 --> 00:49:20.651  
first and foremost in his mind, for his  
kids and for his staff and for families.

00:49:22.991 --> 00:49:28.212  
So, hopefully we'll find that information.  
We did find, as I mentioned to

00:49:28.212 --> 00:49:37.466  
Stephanie, one of the minutes of one  
of the meetings where he had a

00:49:37.466 --> 00:49:43.334  
presentation about the credit union,  
and so we're hoping that with --

00:49:43.334 --> 00:49:50.311  
the gentleman who presented it and  
his organization, we're hoping that we

00:49:50.311 --> 00:49:54.949  
can find some records of that.

00:49:58.721 --> 00:50:06.008  
I'm trying to think, was there anything  
else about -- that's probably largely what

00:50:06.008 --> 00:50:17.935  
I can tell you about the building,  
was just that it was a-- I guess you could

00:50:17.935 --> 00:50:27.769

call it a social hub because everybody congregated there. The teachers had

00:50:28.599 --> 00:50:35.314  
work to do, and those who were officers were going in and out constantly.

00:50:35.314 --> 00:50:46.426  
So, growing up, our house, we always had somebody visiting, for the most part.

00:50:48.986 --> 00:50:57.054  
The other thing I want to mention as part of my growing up that was very

00:50:57.054 --> 00:51:03.286  
important, and I think important to our community, was our churches.

00:51:04.186 --> 00:51:14.178  
And that goes back, way back. In fact, as Stephanie and I were talking yesterday

00:51:14.178 --> 00:51:18.544  
in another meeting when I was preparing for the Sunday thing,

00:51:21.024 --> 00:51:22.601  
I came across --

00:51:24.651 --> 00:51:33.109  
I came across a few things that I hadn't seen before, and I knew that Jacob

00:51:33.109 --> 00:51:43.223  
Fontaine had started many of the churches in Austin back in the 1800s and I came

00:51:43.223 --> 00:51:48.028  
across several --  
(audio glitches)

00:51:48.028 --> 00:51:53.375  
-- my family funeral programs. Well they weren't really programs,

00:51:53.375 --> 00:51:57.833  
but they were, back in that time, they were announcements, and so they

00:51:57.833 --> 00:52:03.533  
were printed little sheets about  
like that, announcing the death

00:52:03.533 --> 00:52:13.366  
and giving the -- at that time, the body  
was typically in the home and people

00:52:13.366 --> 00:52:18.090  
came to the home.  
So it always gave their address

00:52:18.090 --> 00:52:21.532  
and then if there was a funeral in  
a church, it named the church and

00:52:21.532 --> 00:52:28.630  
the location. So I did find --  
and my uncle had been telling me

00:52:28.630 --> 00:52:32.793  
that there were two churches in  
that neighborhood -- this is Wheatville --

00:52:36.303 --> 00:52:46.293  
and so I think one was Second Baptist  
and I can't recall the name of the other,

00:52:47.593 --> 00:52:52.778  
but I think the other one was  
an AME, I believe he said.

00:52:53.848 --> 00:53:02.496  
But, our family was a member of  
Ebenezer. My dad was a member of

00:53:02.496 --> 00:53:10.981  
Ebenezer. My mother's family was  
First Baptist and so they're a long

00:53:10.981 --> 00:53:16.172  
history of First Baptist people  
dating back to my great-grandfather.

00:53:16.792 --> 00:53:25.498  
And so when my mother and dad married,  
she went to Ebenezer with him and so

00:53:25.498 --> 00:53:32.493  
I grew up in Ebenezer and it was very

much like, as I described, school.

00:53:33.973 --> 00:53:39.250  
We were a close-knit family of people.  
Everybody knew everybody.

00:53:39.750 --> 00:53:42.324  
Everybody looked out for everybody.

00:53:44.644 --> 00:53:47.756  
And there was always good food.

00:53:50.746 --> 00:54:02.763  
A little aside, Mrs. Camilla Thompson  
was a cook, and I believe she cooked

00:54:02.763 --> 00:54:13.004  
for one of the frat or sorority houses  
on UT's campus. But she also cooked

00:54:13.004 --> 00:54:19.049  
for, I think it was the nursery school.  
I can't remember.

00:54:19.049 --> 00:54:25.106  
I should remember who cooked at  
Kealing because the food was always

00:54:25.106 --> 00:54:33.726  
so good, but Mrs. Camilla, as we called  
her, baked the best pies,

00:54:33.726 --> 00:54:40.380  
the sweet potato pies, and she would  
call my dad on a Saturday or Sunday

00:54:40.380 --> 00:54:48.942  
afternoon and say "I got your pie!"  
So, he loved sweet potato pie, and so

00:54:48.942 --> 00:54:57.142  
he would drive over and pick up the  
pie and she also -- I also remembered that

00:54:57.142 --> 00:55:05.593  
there was frequently a bottle of homemade  
wine, and I don't know if she made it or

00:55:05.593 --> 00:55:07.171  
if somebody else made it.

00:55:08.471 --> 00:55:13.391

And of course, my dad didn't drink  
and my mom didn't either, really.

00:55:13.391 --> 00:55:18.667

Every now and then, they might have  
a cocktail if they were out somewhere.

00:55:20.187 --> 00:55:26.203

But he'd always have this wine  
that fermented in our house somewhere.

00:55:27.823 --> 00:55:43.406

But in any case, the church was really a  
foundation for many of us and that's how,

00:55:44.936 --> 00:55:54.306

even going back generations, I think, has  
contributed to African Americans being

00:55:54.306 --> 00:56:01.455

the resilient people that we are.  
And it may not seem like it,

00:56:01.455 --> 00:56:06.211

we go through periods where we're  
sort of down and out

00:56:07.611 --> 00:56:12.909

and we rebel, as you see with the riots  
that have taken place,

00:56:16.499 --> 00:56:21.529

but you do get tired of having that --

00:56:25.289 --> 00:56:33.078

whatever it is in your DNA that says  
that you're not good enough.

00:56:36.398 --> 00:56:43.468

Somewhere, I heard or read that  
it takes -- and now I've lost the number.

00:56:43.468 --> 00:56:52.216

It was either three or five generations  
to start a new -- to break a habit or

00:56:52.216 --> 00:57:02.799

to change. And I don't know.



I think for African Americans,

00:57:04.589 --> 00:57:10.821  
that doesn't hold true because the  
racism has continued and so you

00:57:10.821 --> 00:57:19.962  
constantly live with it.  
You can excel as many have done,

00:57:21.512 --> 00:57:27.160  
but somewhere in the back of your mind  
is always that little question,

00:57:27.160 --> 00:57:36.166  
if you missed something or didn't get  
something, was it because I'm Black?

00:57:38.926 --> 00:57:45.723  
And you just -- I know with myself,  
the times when I get angry with myself

00:57:46.523 --> 00:57:54.383  
because I try to push that away.  
It's hard to be objective because there's

00:57:54.383 --> 00:58:01.430  
always this thing looming out there.  
"Did you not get it because you're Black?"

00:58:02.360 --> 00:58:12.312  
"Or did you get it because you're Black?"  
So, you always have that little bit eating

00:58:12.312 --> 00:58:18.996  
at you in the back of your head.  
Now that's my generation.

00:58:20.936 --> 00:58:31.878  
But it still, even talking to young  
people, they don't have the actual

00:58:31.878 --> 00:58:44.998  
experiences that we had with the covert  
racism and segregation, but the nuances

00:58:44.998 --> 00:58:52.539  
of racism continue to be there.  
So we all feel it.

00:58:53.619 --> 00:59:08.713  
But our churches, I think, were really  
another part of our tight-knit communities

00:59:09.603 --> 00:59:18.816  
and Ebenezer was where I grew up.  
And as I said, my mother grew up in

00:59:18.816 --> 00:59:21.285  
First Baptist, that was my grandmother's.

00:59:24.085 --> 00:59:32.625  
So, I probably talked a whole lot more  
than you needed to hear.

00:59:32.625 --> 00:59:37.915  
- It's okay. Everything --  
- I get talking, and then there's so much.

00:59:38.425 --> 00:59:44.846  
- Everything is helpful for this archive,  
so yeah. It's okay, it's okay.

00:59:44.846 --> 00:59:49.579  
We can move on and talk about The  
Children's Haven.

00:59:49.579 --> 00:59:53.588  
Could you tell me a little  
about that nonprofit?

00:59:54.918 --> 01:00:01.279  
- The Children's Haven Association,  
and I think I sent, I hope I sent that.

01:00:02.809 --> 01:00:10.399  
Stephanie, a summary of our history.  
And we're still, as with everything else,

01:00:10.399 --> 01:00:19.615  
we're still uncovering parts of that  
as well. But my dad was one of the

01:00:19.615 --> 01:00:27.542  
board members of Children's Haven  
and I thought that it had started in

01:00:27.542 --> 01:00:36.030  
the '50s. It's an organization formed with  
community members who were just

01:00:36.030 --> 01:00:45.204  
concerned about children who --  
excuse me, underprivileged children

01:00:45.204 --> 01:00:51.694  
and poor children in the community.  
And they started out, their thought was,

01:00:51.694 --> 01:00:59.549  
and we've just uncovered this information,  
their thought was to provide a home

01:00:59.549 --> 01:01:05.739  
for needy children and -- kind of like  
an orphanage because there wasn't

01:01:05.739 --> 01:01:12.355  
anything on the East side for  
those kids, and so that's what they

01:01:12.355 --> 01:01:20.738  
started out. And this was back in the  
mid-40's, 1946 I think was when

01:01:20.738 --> 01:01:30.446  
they came together and organized.  
And they did purchase -- I have to look

01:01:30.446 --> 01:01:39.703  
at my notes, whose house was it?  
It was there on Pleasant Valley

01:01:39.703 --> 01:01:45.209  
and Niles, which is where the  
Britain place is that I mentioned

01:01:45.209 --> 01:01:54.187  
earlier. It was one of the --  
I can't think now.

01:01:54.187 --> 01:02:00.294  
It was a past governor, and I haven't  
had a chance to look this up.

01:02:00.294 --> 01:02:05.501  
I don't remember.  
But it was Governor Hamilton.

01:02:07.431 --> 01:02:14.905

And that was what they were going to do, and it appears that

01:02:18.675 --> 01:02:22.850  
they kept it for a while, but something happened, and I don't know what.

01:02:23.880 --> 01:02:31.354  
I don't ever remember my dad mentioning it, but then that was many years back

01:02:31.354 --> 01:02:36.309  
because I was just an infant then.

01:02:38.469 --> 01:02:44.879  
So, I don't ever remember them talking about the very early days.

01:02:45.369 --> 01:02:53.046  
But anyway, they did sell that building and they purchased land at the corner

01:02:53.046 --> 01:03:02.487  
of Chicon and 20th, and I think this is another kind of grey area that we're

01:03:02.487 --> 01:03:08.488  
looking into. I think there was a building on that, might have been a house,

01:03:08.488 --> 01:03:16.489  
on that property.  
It was two lots, 1906 and 1908.

01:03:16.489 --> 01:03:26.087  
And once again, my dad always formed these relationships, both White and Black,

01:03:27.887 --> 01:03:37.749  
and he found these houses that he had moved on to the property.

01:03:37.749 --> 01:03:48.729  
So, they joined, I think, three or four houses together to make about a

01:03:48.729 --> 01:03:52.438  
23, 24-hundred square foot facility.

01:03:53.408 --> 01:04:08.529

And the new group of which I'm a member,  
last year, the year before, embarked upon

01:04:09.249 --> 01:04:14.543  
bringing it up to code.  
That was a real experience. (laughs)

01:04:15.783 --> 01:04:19.697  
But interesting because we found,  
we did determine

01:04:19.697 --> 01:04:22.048  
that we could see that there were

01:04:22.048 --> 01:04:29.588  
different houses that had been put  
together because, I don't know if you

01:04:29.588 --> 01:04:39.329  
ever watched HGTV, but when -- What's the  
one that was so popular?

01:04:39.329 --> 01:04:46.269  
She loved shiplap, and those are those  
boards that the houses were made of,

01:04:47.129 --> 01:04:52.256  
years and years ago. They were horizontal  
boards that made up the walls

01:04:52.256 --> 01:04:54.941  
and we found lots of that.

01:04:55.861 --> 01:05:02.058  
Unfortunately, it wasn't in condition and  
nor did we have the funds to really

01:05:03.028 --> 01:05:12.793  
take advantage of that, so we did have to  
sheetrock over, but anyway, it's a --

01:05:13.743 --> 01:05:23.873  
it's a working facility now, but that was  
back in the late 40's, early 50's.

01:05:23.873 --> 01:05:32.610  
They did get their 501 C3 and that was a  
struggle because they were denied,

01:05:32.610 --> 01:05:37.348

year after year after year.  
(coughs) Excuse me.

01:05:37.348 --> 01:05:40.676  
They couldn't get it, and  
they finally got it,

01:05:42.306 --> 01:05:43.040  
and...

01:05:46.260 --> 01:05:47.300  
excuse me.

01:05:49.600 --> 01:05:55.072  
But the mission always remained the same,  
to provide services.

01:05:55.922 --> 01:06:05.141  
When they moved to the Chicon building,  
they were no longer housing children, but

01:06:05.141 --> 01:06:09.180  
providing services for them, so they  
started a daycare.

01:06:09.990 --> 01:06:20.267  
And they ran a daycare for awhile and  
then that closed and they --

01:06:20.267 --> 01:06:29.358  
the city used the building again for  
services, The Rosewood Clinic was there.

01:06:31.098 --> 01:06:37.112  
They distributed commodities during the  
time when they used to distribute cheese

01:06:37.112 --> 01:06:46.019  
and, I think was cheese and eggs  
to families, so that was done there.

01:06:46.019 --> 01:07:00.667  
And then the organization itself, during  
the time when the, when other entities

01:07:00.667 --> 01:07:09.155  
were leasing the building, that was the  
income for the organization, and so then

01:07:09.155 --> 01:07:17.932

they began donating funds, helping other non-profits that worked with children.

01:07:17.932 --> 01:07:24.286

So, through the years, they've donated funds for sickle cell --

01:07:24.286 --> 01:07:31.432

they've been donating to sickle cell, oh, I guess for the past 10-15 years,

01:07:31.432 --> 01:07:42.211

and to the local Mark (inaudible) Foundation.

01:07:42.211 --> 01:07:47.376

And Ebenezer, the church I referenced earlier,

01:07:47.376 --> 01:07:50.664

has a child development center, and through the years,

01:07:50.664 --> 01:07:52.844

they've been a supporter of that,

01:07:52.844 --> 01:07:56.910

stepping in when they needed funds for special projects,

01:07:56.910 --> 01:08:02.123

but they've supported the child development center for the last

01:08:02.123 --> 01:08:04.494

10 or 15 years as well.

01:08:04.494 --> 01:08:11.563

And then some others, The Seasons for Caring, and there's another children's --

01:08:11.563 --> 01:08:19.792

The Children's Shelter, so they've supported a lot of other organizations

01:08:19.792 --> 01:08:27.222

as a foundation.

When the new board or newer board members

01:08:28.252 --> 01:08:38.207

joined a few years ago, and we're still expanding, we've just taken on a couple

01:08:38.207 --> 01:08:43.263  
of new -- 3 new board members because it was just a small core of us.

01:08:43.913 --> 01:08:47.246  
When my dad -- my dad was the last surviving board member,

01:08:48.906 --> 01:08:55.045  
and just to back up a little bit, the -- I think my dad,

01:08:55.045 --> 01:08:57.475  
initially, was the only man.

01:08:58.735 --> 01:09:04.266  
There were several ladies. One was Ms. Christian.

01:09:06.396 --> 01:09:17.478  
Ms. Christian was a business woman who owned a beauty school, and she ran --

01:09:17.478 --> 01:09:23.742  
It was right around where the Delashwah house is there

01:09:23.742 --> 01:09:27.069  
on the other side, Rosewood,

01:09:28.949 --> 01:09:35.724  
and with the beauty school, she brought young women in, trained them,

01:09:35.724 --> 01:09:38.593  
and so she had kind of a dormitory.

01:09:40.373 --> 01:09:50.202  
So, she was responsible for educating and giving careers to a lot of young women.

01:09:50.862 --> 01:10:03.308  
Her sister, Mrs. Clark was a (inaudible), and so she had a beauty shop.

01:10:04.380 --> 01:10:10.335  
And then, there was Reverend (inaudible),



who was one of the ministers,

01:10:10.335 --> 01:10:15.944  
and his wife were -- she was a member.

01:10:16.594 --> 01:10:21.724  
And then, as they progressed  
through the years,

01:10:21.724 --> 01:10:24.730  
I think in the '50s or '60s --

01:10:24.730 --> 01:10:29.460  
and this is all in the history.  
Sorry, I don't have the dates real clear.

01:10:29.800 --> 01:10:30.618  
- It's okay.

01:10:32.428 --> 01:10:40.339  
- They had -- There were two UT professors  
that joined them.

01:10:41.199 --> 01:10:46.223  
They were able to get funding  
for one of their programs

01:10:47.033 --> 01:10:51.969  
through the work of  
those two professors as well.

01:10:52.749 --> 01:11:01.608  
And so, when my dad became ill,  
we didn't want to see it die,

01:11:02.042 --> 01:11:10.885  
so our family came together,  
and my mother and her brother --

01:11:10.885 --> 01:11:13.465  
my uncle, the one who's 101 --

01:11:15.225 --> 01:11:23.581  
and her sister, who was also  
an educator at Anderson,

01:11:25.204 --> 01:11:29.854  
and a cousin from San Antonio,  
we all came together

01:11:29.854 --> 01:11:35.719  
and formed a new board  
and continued the organization.

01:11:35.719 --> 01:11:41.567  
Well, as we formed,  
I guess about a year later, they died --

01:11:42.547 --> 01:11:47.760  
so my aunt and my cousin  
and my dad died --

01:11:49.330 --> 01:11:54.621  
and so my uncle continued to run it.

01:11:55.321 --> 01:12:01.211  
And, with a couple of other people  
and some Ebenezer people stepped up.

01:12:02.841 --> 01:12:10.749  
And so he's kept it going all these years  
because he didn't want to see

01:12:11.169 --> 01:12:16.948  
the work stop and so almost  
single-handedly through a few years

01:12:16.948 --> 01:12:22.329  
because I had not moved back  
to Austin and my mother was aging.

01:12:23.522 --> 01:12:30.766  
My mother was 103 when she died  
about four years ago.

01:12:31.356 --> 01:12:38.744  
And so, the organization continues  
to have its mission,

01:12:41.474 --> 01:12:44.967  
supporting youth and their families.

01:12:44.967 --> 01:12:51.630  
And we're now in the process of doing  
programming for our own activities,

01:12:51.630 --> 01:12:57.637  
and we're in the midst  
of our strategic planning,

01:12:57.637 --> 01:13:02.382  
but we're kicking off a program  
called The Kitchen Table.

01:13:03.062 --> 01:13:10.144  
And the thought is that, "Where do you  
typically talk about things?"

01:13:11.094 --> 01:13:17.531  
and it's usually around the dinner table,  
or you meet somebody and you meet them

01:13:17.531 --> 01:13:21.651  
for coffee or you meet them for lunch.

01:13:21.951 --> 01:13:29.093  
And so, our goal is to have  
a commercial kitchen

01:13:30.233 --> 01:13:35.025  
where we will have workshops  
and food prep

01:13:35.025 --> 01:13:45.128  
and teaching and learning how to be  
self-sustaining and self-sufficient.

01:13:47.098 --> 01:13:49.687  
And that encompasses a lot of things.

01:13:49.687 --> 01:13:53.039  
You have mental-health issues  
that need to be addressed.

01:13:53.609 --> 01:13:58.199  
We do have a psychologist  
who's just come up on (inaudible),

01:13:58.199 --> 01:14:04.242  
and so these are the things  
that we're looking to do in the future.

01:14:04.242 --> 01:14:12.417  
Our first project is launching this fall.  
We're in the midst of trying to find

01:14:12.417 --> 01:14:22.402  
a site for distribution repot,  
and it's a vegetable pot

01:14:22.804 --> 01:14:31.458  
that we'll distribute to needy families  
and the idea being that

01:14:31.458 --> 01:14:35.386  
if you can start your little garden  
in a pot,

01:14:35.986 --> 01:14:41.280  
you'll begin to be able to grow  
your own food.

01:14:41.280 --> 01:14:48.032  
You may not have everything,  
but if you have a few greens

01:14:48.032 --> 01:14:53.322  
or a few carrots or --  
you can expand and end up

01:14:53.802 --> 01:14:58.913  
with food to feed yourself  
and possibly your family.

01:14:59.873 --> 01:15:09.887  
So, that's what -- We call it TCHA --  
is about, and hopefully,

01:15:09.887 --> 01:15:17.482  
you'll be hearing more about our pot --  
our victory pot initiative that --

01:15:17.482 --> 01:15:22.459  
We're hoping to start distribution  
the end of September,

01:15:22.459 --> 01:15:25.209  
early October for fall planting.

01:15:26.119 --> 01:15:31.449  
Then, hopefully, we'll have  
a spring planting

01:15:31.449 --> 01:15:37.188  
that will be even larger,  
but right now, our target is 400 families.

01:15:38.838 --> 01:15:47.627  
So, more to come as soon as  
we nail down a distribution site,

01:15:48.308 --> 01:15:55.667  
but that's our program,  
and again, it's on the website.

01:15:58.264 --> 01:16:02.818  
We just launched a new website,  
and we're continuing to update it.

01:16:03.718 --> 01:16:09.104  
I think I sent over to Stephanie  
the program page that describes

01:16:09.104 --> 01:16:14.674  
the victory pot initiative,  
and I'm not sure that that's been loaded

01:16:14.674 --> 01:16:18.979  
onto the website as yet,  
but the Kitchen Table program

01:16:18.979 --> 01:16:20.749  
is on the website.

01:16:21.431 --> 01:16:25.070  
- I'm looking forward to hearing  
more about it, for sure.

01:16:25.070 --> 01:16:29.814  
- Yeah, well, we're --  
Spread the word to interns.

01:16:29.814 --> 01:16:33.337  
We're looking for interns  
who can help us (laughing).

01:16:33.676 --> 01:16:38.882  
There's a lot of organization  
that needs to take place that --

01:16:38.882 --> 01:16:45.907  
I'm still working, and one of  
our other members is still working,

01:16:45.907 --> 01:16:53.878  
and so it's getting to be real tough  
to try to juggle the time

01:16:53.878 --> 01:16:57.138  
that Children's Haven needs

01:16:57.778 --> 01:17:02.569  
and the time that we've got  
to put in for our work.

01:17:04.879 --> 01:17:07.534  
So, where are you from, Megan?

01:17:07.804 --> 01:17:11.928  
- I'm from Houston, and I'm actually  
here right now. Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

01:17:11.928 --> 01:17:14.540  
- Oh, you're in Houston now.  
- Yes.

01:17:14.540 --> 01:17:17.759  
- Oh, okay.  
- But I'm going to move back to Austin

01:17:17.759 --> 01:17:19.560  
once school starts next week.

01:17:20.248 --> 01:17:21.825  
- Is it next week?  
- Yes.

01:17:23.226 --> 01:17:27.932  
- Oh, wow, you're going to be  
in-person classes or?

01:17:28.162 --> 01:17:32.697  
- I have one in-person class,  
but the rest of my classes are online.

01:17:32.697 --> 01:17:41.014  
- Oh, good. Well, stay safe, please.  
This is a tough time.

01:17:42.895 --> 01:17:45.038  
Do you have siblings?

01:17:45.755 --> 01:17:47.869  
- Yes, I have two younger sisters.

01:17:47.869 --> 01:17:52.287  
- Oh, okay, so you're the big sister, huh?  
- Mm-hmm (affirmative).

01:17:52.287 --> 01:17:54.228

- Good, good.

01:17:55.018 --> 01:17:59.765

- Okay. So, I know we've been talking for a while, but I just have

01:17:59.765 --> 01:18:02.681

a couple more questions.

- Okay.

01:18:03.991 --> 01:18:10.779

- So, what should younger generations and newcomers to East Austin be aware of?

01:18:10.779 --> 01:18:12.937

Like, what would you want them to know?

01:18:13.987 --> 01:18:21.701

- I would want them to know that this was a thriving, bustling community

01:18:24.241 --> 01:18:33.089

of African Americans, and it really was essentially African --

01:18:33.089 --> 01:18:41.422

I'm trying to think if I can remember any whites in East Austin,

01:18:41.422 --> 01:18:44.786

at least this community of East Austin.

01:18:44.786 --> 01:18:48.565

As you went further south and further north, of course,

01:18:48.565 --> 01:18:57.475

there were whites and Hispanics, but I would want them to know

01:18:57.475 --> 01:19:07.577

that it was a vibrant community and a community of all kinds of people.

01:19:08.777 --> 01:19:13.359

We had educators, we had medical professionals,

01:19:13.359 --> 01:19:22.285

we had businessowners,

and others (laughs),

01:19:23.915 --> 01:19:26.535  
but we all lived well together,

01:19:26.975 --> 01:19:39.948  
and it was a very supportive community,  
but I think -- I have to think on that.

01:19:42.458 --> 01:19:51.217  
Our stories are important to us  
because we've been here for generations,

01:19:52.867 --> 01:20:01.957  
and yet the community is changing  
so rapidly and has changed so rapidly

01:20:02.707 --> 01:20:11.385  
that we could be erased without a thought,  
and that's what's been happening

01:20:11.385 --> 01:20:16.655  
as homes are destroyed,  
as businesses are destroyed

01:20:17.198 --> 01:20:24.740  
and new businesses, other ethnicities  
come in and have new businesses.

01:20:26.974 --> 01:20:36.257  
No one will ever know that --  
what it once was, and history is --

01:20:37.064 --> 01:20:43.386  
A lot of people may say, "Well,  
why should we care about history?"

01:20:44.586 --> 01:20:50.305  
but history does, like it or not,  
it does impact who you are.

01:20:51.315 --> 01:20:58.697  
And I think, particularly for  
African Americans to recognize

01:20:59.344 --> 01:21:05.795  
that we have a rich history  
-- is most important,

01:21:06.495 --> 01:21:15.069



and unfortunately, for us to recognize it,  
it almost has to be recognized

01:21:15.719 --> 01:21:19.809  
by other ethnicities.  
- Right, mm-hmm (affirmative).

01:21:20.859 --> 01:21:26.878  
- I think about -- I think,  
a lot of times, it crosses my mind,

01:21:26.878 --> 01:21:35.745  
I think about Auschwitz and the Holocaust  
and what many Jews went through.

01:21:37.995 --> 01:21:40.316  
No one's going to erase that.

01:21:40.746 --> 01:21:45.336  
They're not going to allow it  
because it was an important part --

01:21:45.336 --> 01:21:50.456  
as awful as it was --  
it's an important part

01:21:50.456 --> 01:22:01.064  
of who they are and what they survived  
and, again, the resiliency that goes

01:22:01.064 --> 01:22:04.854  
through their lineage and their genealogy.

01:22:04.854 --> 01:22:07.762  
Well, the same is true  
for African Americans.

01:22:09.566 --> 01:22:15.504  
We didn't exactly choose to come here.  
We were brought here,

01:22:16.258 --> 01:22:21.176  
and we contributed to  
the growth of the country,

01:22:21.696 --> 01:22:27.356  
and if -- I think there's research  
being done now or has been done

01:22:28.606 --> 01:22:39.566

as to what today's cost would be  
or today's profits would be

01:22:40.246 --> 01:22:48.452  
if you actually assessed --  
if you monetized the work

01:22:48.452 --> 01:22:53.020  
that African Americans did  
when they were brought as slaves

01:22:53.532 --> 01:23:00.221  
and on the plantations  
and how that really helped

01:23:01.391 --> 01:23:10.197  
each area grow and prosper, but see,  
it's never been looked at in those terms

01:23:10.897 --> 01:23:20.695  
because of all the other things,  
the emotional scars of slavery.

01:23:22.045 --> 01:23:27.808  
It was never looked at  
in terms of a contribution.

01:23:28.649 --> 01:23:31.219  
It's just that it happened.

01:23:32.189 --> 01:23:40.590  
So, with the change in the communities,  
I think it becomes --

01:23:40.845 --> 01:23:49.592  
We feel it to be even more important  
that we just aren't erased

01:23:49.592 --> 01:23:54.725  
because we were a contribution  
to this country,

01:23:55.056 --> 01:24:01.837  
and just in terms of the city of Austin,  
we were a contribution

01:24:01.837 --> 01:24:03.436  
to the city of Austin.

01:24:03.814 --> 01:24:08.797

We paid taxes from day one.

01:24:11.007 --> 01:24:16.318

One of the things I uncovered in going back through some of the stuff that I have

01:24:17.228 --> 01:24:30.482

is a little envelope (inaudible)----  
of property tax receipts

01:24:30.482 --> 01:24:34.426

from my great-great-grandfather,  
and I thought, "Wow."

01:24:34.426 --> 01:24:35.981

You look at that --

01:24:36.481 --> 01:24:41.131

I can't remember the dollar amounts,  
but it was 25 dollars,

01:24:41.131 --> 01:24:45.911

or 2 dollars and 50 cents,  
something, really,

01:24:46.861 --> 01:24:56.141

that you would go, "wow,"  
but it wasn't like we were just here,

01:24:56.711 --> 01:24:59.462

living off of other people.

01:24:59.462 --> 01:25:09.353

We actually contributed to the growth,  
and so it becomes important to us

01:25:10.172 --> 01:25:17.151

and to the generations to come,  
the generations following behind us,

01:25:17.777 --> 01:25:25.151

to understand those contributions  
and to have that sense of worth.

01:25:27.061 --> 01:25:29.615

And I think that's a major thing.

01:25:29.615 --> 01:25:34.424

That's one of the things  
that Children's Haven looks at,

01:25:34.814 --> 01:25:42.314  
is promoting and instilling  
that confidence and that sense of worth

01:25:42.804 --> 01:25:48.767  
because that's typically from slavery,  
those are the things that were strict.

01:25:48.767 --> 01:25:50.071  
- Mm-hmm (acknowledgment).

01:25:51.301 --> 01:25:52.530  
- There was no --

01:25:52.530 --> 01:25:57.062  
All you could do was this,  
so you had no confidence

01:25:57.062 --> 01:26:02.677  
that you could do that,  
and there was no sense of worth.

01:26:02.677 --> 01:26:04.085  
You were worthless.

01:26:05.642 --> 01:26:15.534  
And, when you think about it, it's amazing  
that at the same time you're being

01:26:16.924 --> 01:26:21.741  
thought of or taught  
that you're worthless,

01:26:22.921 --> 01:26:29.484  
but at the same time,  
things couldn't operate without you.

01:26:29.883 --> 01:26:31.232  
- Right, mm-hmm (acknowledgment).

01:26:31.232 --> 01:26:36.973  
- So you think about that,  
and it's interesting how

01:26:37.453 --> 01:26:44.048  
the worthlessness is the part that has  
continued through the generations,

01:26:45.425 --> 01:26:48.037

and if you just stop and --

01:26:48.037 --> 01:26:56.267  
but nobody has time to stop and think --  
but if you stop and think about it,

01:26:57.367 --> 01:27:06.118  
the worth is that  
nobody could've survived without you.

01:27:06.588 --> 01:27:11.592  
We were toiling the lands,  
and we were doing all of the labor,

01:27:11.952 --> 01:27:14.755  
and that's what moved  
this country forward.

01:27:16.065 --> 01:27:24.583  
So, and that's true of other ethnicities,  
too, that have immigrated to the U.S.

01:27:26.093 --> 01:27:31.937  
And so you do have to --  
you have to think about

01:27:32.657 --> 01:27:35.394  
those kinds of things,  
and that's one of the things

01:27:35.394 --> 01:27:40.822  
that Children's Haven  
is very interested, and that's our goal,

01:27:41.274 --> 01:27:53.573  
is to start giving young people, youth,  
and with youth comes families,

01:27:53.573 --> 01:27:58.543  
whether it's their grandparents or their  
parents, cousins, and whatever,

01:27:58.543 --> 01:28:06.091  
that it spills over, that sense of worth  
and self-respect and self-determination,

01:28:06.321 --> 01:28:07.748  
all those things.

01:28:08.478 --> 01:28:12.370

So, I guess,  
in saying a whole lot of worth,

01:28:14.382 --> 01:28:23.570  
that's what I would want others  
coming into our community to know,

01:28:23.570 --> 01:28:35.366  
that this once was really  
a thriving community of African Americans,

01:28:35.366 --> 01:28:42.700  
and we did not choose to be here either.  
We were all over the city.

01:28:43.520 --> 01:28:51.070  
My family was in the university area.  
They lived at 24th and San Gabriel.

01:28:53.210 --> 01:28:59.413  
And that's true of all of us.  
There were different colonies

01:28:59.413 --> 01:29:03.802  
and different settlements,  
as Stephanie's been working on,

01:29:04.392 --> 01:29:05.722  
all over the city.

01:29:06.092 --> 01:29:13.614  
And, in 1928, of course,  
it was decreed that we should all be here,

01:29:14.994 --> 01:29:18.439  
and so here we are.

01:29:18.599 --> 01:29:26.969  
We made a thriving community.

01:29:28.989 --> 01:29:32.699  
Of course, this is happening  
all over the city, but we feel it,

01:29:32.699 --> 01:29:39.544  
I think, 10 times more because  
we're a smaller segment of the city.

01:29:41.344 --> 01:29:46.332  
Now that we had it

as a wonderful community,

01:29:46.852 --> 01:29:51.347  
it's being stripped away again.  
Here we go again.

01:29:51.347 --> 01:29:53.370  
Where do we go from here?

01:29:53.370 --> 01:29:58.817  
You know, am I going to have to move  
to Lago Vista or to Buda or, you know,

01:29:58.817 --> 01:30:03.020  
some other place because  
I can't afford to be here anymore

01:30:03.020 --> 01:30:04.917  
because we're being pushed out.

01:30:05.447 --> 01:30:11.752  
So, in light of that, I think  
that's where the impetus has come

01:30:11.752 --> 01:30:18.461  
for us to really, you know,  
make a statement of who was here

01:30:18.881 --> 01:30:21.909  
and what was built here.

01:30:23.149 --> 01:30:29.171  
Yes, it was separate, and it was unequal.

01:30:30.631 --> 01:30:34.728  
You know, when I was growing up,  
couldn't get a pizza delivered.

01:30:38.186 --> 01:30:42.699  
Somebody found out your zip code  
or your address, all of a sudden,

01:30:42.699 --> 01:30:47.615  
they couldn't deliver it  
for some strange reason.

01:30:47.615 --> 01:30:50.525  
They were too busy, or you know,  
"We don't go there."

01:30:53.020 --> 01:30:57.044  
So, we had to, you know, do our own.

01:30:58.440 --> 01:31:09.211  
I do remember going downtown  
to shop, and it was humiliating

01:31:09.882 --> 01:31:18.604  
that you would go into a store,  
you could buy, but you couldn't try on.

01:31:19.834 --> 01:31:23.666  
And, again, it's one of  
those crazy things.

01:31:25.096 --> 01:31:30.572  
you buy it, didn't work, you take it back,  
so of course, you've tried it on.

01:31:32.242 --> 01:31:41.899  
So, it was never really, I think,  
about physically trying it on.

01:31:42.559 --> 01:31:49.476  
It was about your being next  
to someone white trying it on

01:31:51.906 --> 01:32:02.697  
or the salesperson having to serve you  
that just wasn't going to be.

01:32:02.697 --> 01:32:11.327  
So, when my mom would go shopping,  
the housekeeper was the person

01:32:11.327 --> 01:32:12.825  
who assisted her.

01:32:15.590 --> 01:32:21.527  
Of course, it actually worked out  
to our benefit because

01:32:21.527 --> 01:32:24.447  
when she saw things that she knew  
my mother would like,

01:32:24.447 --> 01:32:26.157  
she would put them away.

01:32:28.237 --> 01:32:34.180



So, my mother would still get what she wanted.

01:32:34.611 --> 01:32:40.941  
But I think, at some point, they did have a place

01:32:40.941 --> 01:32:45.189  
where you could try it on, but it might be in the closet

01:32:45.189 --> 01:32:48.199  
with the mops and so forth.

01:32:49.599 --> 01:32:55.743  
It certainly wasn't in a dressing room, and there were no restroom facilities,

01:32:55.743 --> 01:32:59.016  
so you had to schedule your bathroom trips.

01:33:00.636 --> 01:33:01.786  
I think there is --

01:33:01.786 --> 01:33:07.793  
I remember, there was one in one of the bank buildings there on 6th Street,

01:33:08.328 --> 01:33:11.824  
and so everywhere you went, you had to make sure

01:33:11.824 --> 01:33:16.922  
you could get back to that building to go to the bathroom.

01:33:16.922 --> 01:33:20.685  
That was just -- You know, just indignities like that.

01:33:22.595 --> 01:33:27.764  
I do remember the Piccadilly Café, cafeteria,

01:33:29.194 --> 01:33:32.280  
I don't know what it was about the Piccadilly,

01:33:32.850 --> 01:33:38.080

but I just wanted to go  
to the Piccadilly,

01:33:38.080 --> 01:33:40.790  
and every time  
we went downtown, it was,

01:33:40.790 --> 01:33:45.326  
"Mom, why can't we go  
and have lunch at the Piccadilly."

01:33:45.666 --> 01:33:53.669  
I don't know what it was about that  
one place, but of course, I never did,

01:33:53.939 --> 01:33:58.172  
because when I came back, I think  
the Piccadilly was no longer there,

01:33:58.622 --> 01:34:04.227  
and to this day, I've never been  
in the Paramount because we couldn't go.

01:34:05.879 --> 01:34:14.484  
So those are some of the downside,  
you know, of segregation,

01:34:14.484 --> 01:34:19.680  
but our communities were thriving,  
and our churches were

01:34:19.680 --> 01:34:22.004  
a large part of that.

01:34:23.253 --> 01:34:28.148  
I think, because of that,  
we were a community of strong faith.