

Bocas #7 Almirante & Cleveland Nelson

... Unintelligible word or couple of words

Italicized words – sounds like

Hmm hmm – positive

Uh uh – negative

I: Interviewer

N: Cleveland Nelson

I: Mr. Nelson, thank you very much for agreeing to participate in the project. It will surely benefit the community now and in the future. The goal of this questionnaire is to produce as detailed and coherent a narrative of your story as possible. In light of that, I encourage you to feel free to not worry about providing an answer that is too in-depth, that's what we want. I realize that you have already signed the consent form, but I also want to let you know that if there, feel free to tell me if there's anything that you say in the course of the interview that you don't want, that you would like us to keep out of any educational exhibition or presentation materials to be created based on the interviews. Just let me know during the course, during the course of it, okay? And I will also ask you to speak

N: Okay.

I: Okay, tell me about your place of birth and about what was going on there and then as you were growing up?

I: I was born in Jaquita Panama and I was born from a very religious family. My, especially my mother was a very religious person and we had to go to church every Sunday, and, where we had to do morning worship, we had to do evening worship and we had to be at home a certain time too, we had breakfast in the morning a certain time, we had lunch at a certain time, we had dinner in the evening at a certain time and everyone has to be there and we were brought up in a way, a rigid way that we were, we were living in Jamaica because my mother was Jamaican, my father was a Panamanian. My mother had the rein of the house. In those days, there wasn't waiting until your dad gets home to take care of whatever it was. I had 5 brothers and 2 sisters. In those days, we mostly was educated in English and as time goes by, the Spanish schools begin to develop and we had to go to both, my mother made sure that we went to both schools. Whatever time we had free we were able to go to our, to our English school. At the age of 9, we were moved from Jaquita and

came to Abi Guatay and then I continued school there in Abi Guatay. I was a person that was very close to my mother and wherever she went I went with her, to her job or whatever. I would wake up in the mornings and would follow her to her job at 6:00, 6:30, and then from there, I would go to school and then I came back and stayed at the job and whenever she's coming home, I would follow her. I had 2 sisters and she sent my 2 sisters to study music. In those days, wherever the girls went, the teacher was a male teacher, so a boy had to go along with the girls. So I went along with the girls. This happened before we came to Abi Guatay. While we were in Abi Guatay, the girls were sent again to music lessons, but this time it was a lady, a woman teacher, but I ended up going around with them, so I still went along with them, and there, but my sisters, they went but they weren't interested. And in those days whenever the parents decide to send you to study something, whether you are interested or not, you are to go, because then your parents wanted you to just do that. When I was *tailoring*, just making music to making whatever, so I used to go out with them and they weren't into that, they really weren't interested and the lady asked me one day if I would, I asked the lady if I could *learn* the organ, was those pump organ and I went there and she knew that I was interested and finally, but I don't know how it happened, but finally I became the one that to start studying music lessons, so it was decided, so I continued to study and then later on in life I, at the very age of around I was, maybe I could have been 13 or so, I, there was a lady there, cause in those days, while we were living in Abi Guatay here and I was working for the ... *Electric Company*, Because most people didn't have any homes. So my elder daughter got married and he went, he moved out with his wife and my mother and 7 children was in the house at that time my dad lost his job and he went off to Colon and so we were hear living in this house and we had to find someone to do working so that we could get groceries. When I went to seek employment I went to (5:40) by seeking this employment I was told that I couldn't, they wouldn't employ me because I had a brother that was working at the same place before me. They had a problem and he was fired. And so I couldn't be employed. Anyway at my tender age I still, I don't know why I did it, but I stood there after they told me that I wasn't going to get employed, I stood there, I stood up over his desk, beside his desk and this boss was sorting papers, *putting them* in the basket, I was still standing there, but the lady that was giving music lessons, she used to work at the schools and she got assured that when I got there in the morning, that I would be employed, but then when the time came for me to face the boss, I was the person that had to go by himself. She really wouldn't go with me. So I stood there, I said to him, yes it's true I had a brother working here and he didn't give you, he wasn't a good employee, but I am a *different* person, we are the same title, but I have a different name and I think I deserve a chance. And so he looked at me and said to me, okay, go and go in. So I went in, it was

a, he was in a big room out here and there was a small room inside where I had to go, so I went in there *where the lady was*. So she told me everything that I had to do and I started doing it. So I was working for two weeks, for two weeks, and I didn't know how much I was gonna be paid or anything because I was really scared to go ask this guy how much I was gonna earn because I *was afraid maybe they'd fire me*. So anyway she told me that I have to find out how much I was gonna earn. So then I went one evening, we stay there, we always stay after because we have to put away the files and *we stay* when all the people are gone from the office. So this day he was there and I went up, I approached him and I asked him and he said to me, now, you are going to earn twelve fifty a month. So I said okay, thank you, I went back in and I told her. Well, okay and that's what it was. and I was taking a lesson, a music lesson at that time. So I was going to Spanish school and I was going to English school and I was taking a music lesson and then I was working. So extra means I do extra things. And everything went along fine. The lady was very nice, she was kind and another thing that she told me when I was there that people used to come around and sell a lot of things, dates and different things, they come out and sell and she told me I was never to trust anything from anyone, it was not good idea and whatever she purchased she would share it with me so I would have food. So then when I received my first paycheck and I went home, my mother told me that I have to go up to church next Sunday, when I go to church on that Sunday, I was to get a box of church envelopes and I was to contribute twenty-five cents Sunday in one of those envelopes. I was to save five dollars per month and I was to take some money out to do what I need to do, so I began to do that. And then the first vacation that I had, I went to, at that time my mother subsequently went to Colon, that was in 19, 1943, she went to Colon, because Colon they had a lot of work over there in those days and so she went to Colon and I still stay working here with my sis, I stay with my sister and the ladies from the church cause they were in those days, all the ladies were very vigilant about the children in the church, you had to obey everybody and everybody look out for you and everybody they discipline you in a way, not bad, hitting or anything, but by words, by eyes, by, you know in those days, they would just look at you and you know what to do. So I continued to work and go to church. I, I, at first I didn't want to go on Sunday, but then there was a lady that was living not very far from me, she said, no you have to go every Sunday, so she would stop by with her car and she was going to church because they could afford to pay a taxi, so she would stop by and she lived not too far from me and stop by and go and say come on *and* so we stayed at church and then after that I got do my music and the first vacation I took and I went to Colon, that was in about 1945 I think and in my pocket, I had fifty dollars in my pocket. I withdraw, that was savings that I had and I went over there and my mother was working at the time over there

and then I came back and then consequently, I began to get several promotions in job. I became a receptionist. My first assignment was messenger and I became receptionist. I was assistant printer. I became the printer. I became the master. I became *relief pay* master, I became the cashier and then after a number of years I went to a home where the lady had gone to the states and she came back and they had a welcome party for her. That was in about the 60's and she begin to tell us about the subway, how you have to hold on to the subway and you know and all that happened, so when she was in, I was right there listening and when I, I came home from the party and I said to my mother, I would like to go to the states after hearing all these things and she said, you don't have any connection and nobody over there, but one of my church's leaders at the business who work for me, said to me, and and her husband had recently went to the states. So I began to save and I wrote them a letter and I asked them if I could go on a vacation with them. And they said yes, I could. So in 1963, I went to Panama City and tried to get a Visa from the Minister, I have a who works there, agent in the days and he, when he talked to me and he told me, they were going to ask me about why would I want to come back, he said you are not married, so you tell him that you are, he asked me if I had any property. I said no well I don't have any property. I said I have this job and so I would just like to go on a vacation and so I did tell him that and he said to me, okay I am going to give you the Visa, but you have to go to, you have to go to Balboa and sign on the bible that you are going to come back and he said then you can go ahead and buy your ticket and everything I did in one day and then you get the Visa. So I did that, on Monday morning I went and I did all what I had to do and I got the Visa. So, I sent a cable to the people, tell them, give them the flight number and everything. I was there, I was on my way to Los Angeles, California, where I, while I was in the plane I heard so many things about United States, I wanted to hear what was gonna take place, but then I remember that you meet people one the way and you talk to people, so there was a lady sitting there and I told her that it was the first time I was going and we talked, it was a white woman, she talked and she said to me, well I am, I am going to, where was she going? She was going to not California, but San Francisco. She said to me, well when you get to Los Angeles, you are going to get out of the plane, I am going to remain on the plane, but when you go out there, do you have the address where you are going? I said yes, I have the address. She said, well okay, if you don't see the person come to meet you, you just sit in the, you just sit there and wait, because don't go with anyone. So I got out the plane, I, I was really lost. I didn't know what to do. I got there and this time a gentleman came to me, but he in the parking lot and he was get in a car and he came up and when I look up, he was on the escalator. I have never seen escalator in my life, so he came up on escalator and he got off escalator and he greeted me and he talked to me and everything and then he didn't say

anything to me really, but then he got on the escalator, so I was standing there and he was just going down and I was standing there. So anyway, I got on the escalator and I went down (17:49)..... They had a smart place, I would never forget that and they had a very smart place. I met a young lady where, the address, but I asked the man on the escalator, will you help me? I was alone in the place and I, ate a lot while I was there. *I made my way there when I was 26, I came back, when I came back when I was 29* because this lady served me We had snack at a certain time we had dinner, we had well, I came back home and then I began to talk about what I ate, what I saw. And I got the idea that, because when I started to work I had never been to a high school, I didn't go to college, but I just went out there and I saw where I was working, I started because I wanted to get more education, so after a number of years I, about 66, I said to the, we keep writing to each other, I said I would like to go back and study and they would help me to get some more education and they said yes they would try to help me, so I began to save up and I did everything I could. I was in the at the time I remember well I never brought anyone, but then I went to the I was gonna be away from, I would have to be away for at least a year and a half, cause I wouldn't be able to *be paid and send it back*. Well I didn't know what I was gonna do because then. So I, I tried to borrow some money around here from different people *I thought*, So one person I, there's a reason, there's a problem with you know people of color moving into, people who have a color, who's black, who's white, who's this and that, and I learned there that day and when I was about to go away from here, it doesn't matter what color you know, he's black, he's brown, you know. You can get help from a white person, you can get help from a, you can get help from a Panamanian, from a black, anybody, you have. So while I was pondering and I was trying to get this one, there was a guy named Jaime, a tall, *a merchant would help you*. I told him about what was happening and he said, I'm gonna help you *and I will sign the paper* because I didn't have enough money in my saving and I was going to get, in those days a Visa to study, you have to get a student Visa, so I have to get a student Visa. I had to get this form I have to get it and I have to fill it out and say all the things, anything like that, so I went back to the, I had an appointment with so I was afraid that the little money that I had maybe wouldn't last me, because I had almost four thousand dollars that I needed to do the course for the time that I was going to be away because I was told I was needed to work, why don't you go to school So I, I got the money from from this guy... *thousand*. put it in my pocket and I went to And he said to me, who's gonna pay this money for? I said I'm gonna pay, I was, it was so good. He didn't ask me to show the money or do anything, he gave me the Visa. He said that, he picks up all the papers and said I have to go and do my exam, you have to go and prepare, so I went, I went through everythingso I went and got and I went and I got the

Visa and then I have to get permission from my job because I was working at the time, the job didn't want me to leave. They said well you have to go get it okayed, it was going to be a year and a half. So I, in those days you have to have somebody to pay the water and somebody pay the light while I was away, so I went, I had some very good friends and I went to one of my friends and he said okay, I will pay the water while you are away. I went to another friend, I'm gonna pay the light while you're away and my mother was here at the time, cause I'm coming from a family of 7, but I was, I was the only one that was in school at the time, all the other 6 was already married or So it was very difficult for me to, [long pause] yes it was very difficult for me to go at the time [long pause] because I was leaving my mother here at you know, she said she was not afraid, but I know that she was worried because I was the first not to ... We had just moved(24:35)..... because in those days it was very difficult. We were living in *these camps* around here and there was no sanitary facilities and there was a lot of stuff and people were, my mother was a highly religious person and we had people coming around visiting us and that, and it, we wasn't comfortable with the situation so we decided that was going to try to build a house. So we did build a house and after that I was going to go away, and my brother so I, I remember the morning when I was leaving, we had all gathered outside the house, around the..... from theAnglican church, we was here and all the friends gathered at the house that morning and I was supposed to leave. We had to catch a train because in those days we didn't have a car to take us to the train and we had to catch a train we were just standing around... and he got up and said no, you have to get the train. So, we pick up all the things and we went out to the station and I, and when I, when I left and I went to Panama and I went up to the states. You can imagine I was at school for, I don't know how long it was, so when I got there, the people got up and stand and say okay we're gonna take you, we're gonna take you in the bus and show you all you're going to getAlso I was studying, the lady was studying, No she was a teacher, but she had a young kid and soshe was working at the time at the time and I was, she was studying and I was studying..... study so it was a two bedroom house, I had to, I was a I had I had to get up in the morning and make sure I was *out of* the bathroom by 6:30 because then he had to get in the bathroom because then he had to go to work and he used to take me part way so that I could pay less bus fare so I go to him and then he had to get ready after that. So then the first morning I, I went myself and I got off at the wrong stop, it was, I got off at 4 and I should've stayed until the next bus stop, so I had to walk, you know, down. But then I got there and I went to school and it was a big room, a lot of kids, a lot of not kids, grown up people. People from all around, Thailand, Japan, everything that you could think, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Ghana, and we are all in this room and they started to, the

professors came out and say okay they're going to just give the, *they start asking* at random and they start asking you this and everybody had to answer, everything, was a you finish high school and you just go right in, but if you are an adult, you do the test and then they would place you according to if you have experience in office work and I had some experience. I get all the test and after that they correct it. These tests that they give, they corrected them and then they came up and say, okay you are going in this room, you go in here, you go in here, you go in here, everybody was assigned *a class*. Somebody who didn't speak English, so those that didn't speak English have to do English. After this test, you have to go to each course for six months, then they do the different subjects, so that, well I didn't have to do that and then didn't do my English properly so we went and then we were assigned. I, I had English, spelling, business organization, tax, mathematics, punctuation; I had about eight subjects that I had. So I got books, I had to pay everything down. In those days I paid a thousand dollars a course. That was in 67. Then after that, nobody talking to you because in those places they speak without you very much and so nobody was talking to you, do all your assignment, going to school every day and after that, it was difficult for me, very difficult cause I didn't know anyone and I was in a big classroom, different room I didn't know anyone, anyway. There was a girl from Hawaii and she, one morning she came in the classroom and she said she don't know what, she was on the bus yesterday and these people, it was an elderly lady on the bus and the lady, she offered the lady her seat and didn't take the seat and when the bus stopped, the bus threw her up at the glass, the front glass, she said because people don't say anything they don't talk to you, so, we all take note of that and start asking people where they're from and from that day and then everybody started. It was a difference. Well after I start studying I realized that I wasn't really getting anywhere cause it was too many subjects that I had so I said to the lady where I was staying, that *I should go back* cause I'm not getting anywhere here, and then she said to me, no, you're not going back, you're gonna stay here and do everything that you have to do. She said to me when you go tomorrow morning to school, you go to the counselor and let him, ask him to take off a subject and then you will have less things and may be able to concentrate even more, which I did that and made some progress. I had ten dollars in my pocket because I had *those to go automatically with my money according to when I was going to stay*. ... for the bus, for my lunch, so when I go in the morning I have breakfast at home, but I had lunch at the college and then dinner at home. So I have to go. So after we get to know the professors good they would always invite us to go, when we went to lunch at this place today, we're going to lunch at that place tomorrow and so forth. What I would do is I would just make some kind of excuse because I couldn't, I couldn't afford to go to certain places, because they, so my lunch usually we had hot dog, chicken, burger or taco or some kind of stuff like that, I

would always say, when I can't go with them, I would say, I have a subject that I haven't studied so I wouldn't go. But I used to get, in typing I used to get B or A, so what I would do, another pair of guys don't like to do typing, so I would do their typing and then they would pay me and they would take me home in the car so I wouldn't have to take the bus and so I began to do their studies. But the people that I was staying with were very good. I, I went to a lot of places while I was there. Socially they would take us to a lot of things and they took me to a, to Disneyland twice while I was there. I went to all the amusement parks in California; I went to all, every one, with all these organized trips where it would be a lot of people. But back when me and my mother was here and I told her not to send any money for me because, but she *would try*. And a few times she sent them I would never get it. Somebody took it from the mail. There were two ladies from here too that were living in the states, they would send me money, maybe a five or ten dollars in those days it was a lot. When I was living there in the states a here was two dollars and fifty cents, plus tip, or *how small* it is whatever you want, but in the states you give tip. So that week when I'm going to cut my hair and I'm going to *laundry*, that ten dollars that I have, I have to do everything. So I have to plan a way to do *everything on my own*. The lady that used to iron my shirts, she used to do lots of things but there are few things I had to do by myself. I learned to go to the laundry and don't waste, because when I was a boy growing up, my parents never let the boys wash. We used to, well, we never washed clothes or things like that. When in water and washed. I, I still don't wash, but I learned to do all those things I don't do here. Then I continued, continued, continued and then I was very fortunate when I was growing that the company that I would work for, I was able to secure a ticket on the ... ship. I traveled on a ship. When I was working I traveled on a ship. I paid a hundred and forty dollars. Round trip. And that ticket was good from the time that I was there until I came back. So when I was returning I could probably use the same ticket and I, I could have all the things that I had while I was in college because no doubt that ten dollars that I have weekly, I tried to save some everything that I could bring back for my mother like lamps and what else to bring back on the ship. I had a room to myself where I was sleeping and I had some *space over there in my house*. I came back down from probably seven pieces of luggage and I was bringing back two. So I came back and I discovered oh she was not well, she wasn't here in bed, but she was different and I discovered as I saw her. She told

me that when I left that day she spent, she said she spende all day and so when I came back she began to (38:09)...my job..... came back, when I

returned from college, that was June *time* of, when was, it was a, it was a in Panama and he was torn out the seat and what is the

name of the other guy? I think *Toribos* is the one that, the
during that time when I was returning from the states. So when I got to, I
had to get on the ship, I took, I board the ship in California, but I have to
go to Costa Rica, to go to Costa Rica, you get off the ship, when I, and
then I got a, a motor car, it wasand then from Costa Rica I
came to the road two ways Panama. On my way from *inland, that
road*, there were a lot of men, government and police on this kind of stop.
They were I had seven

pieces of luggage, so they have to search all that luggage. The police at
that time they are part of the state was very prominent at that time and
they were searching everything. So they started to search

everything, you know take up each thing. So each, each suitcase that
they unpack and do that I have to repack it. So seven

pieces of luggage and I, I had on some, I had about six ...caps.....
because I, stuff while I was there. I, I had my camera with I love my
camera and I

lost the film I had in it, because they said open that so then I came back
two ways and then I came back to my job. When I got here

I was promoted, my new job, I became a senior clerk at the time and
then I (40:40)..... moved on my way and then

I could become an administrative assistant to the controller. Then after

that in 1975 we were doing a painting to and then I got another
promotion there. In those days we have, we had this, we used to call it
job level, I was job level 12 at the time and then I got a promotion from
12 to 20 and I went into the category called grade and then I worked
here and during that time when I got married late, I didn't marry early

because I met my wife in working *near Costa Rica* in 1961, but she was
studying to be a nurse and I was trying to organize

myself and get an education, so when we, we just broke bread and we
keep going around, going around with each other and in 1975 she went
to the states and I went to

Chicago something that I had , for that, I had and then somehow
.....we got engaged in 76 and we got married in 77. I was, I

was in my and so out of marriage I found out happiness. I was more
mature and

you were more mature, *we got education*, and that. And at that time. Wen you wait the time that I waited, you can anticipated.(42:40)
 but I waited.

If you are already more mature you can better, so I got married at the time and then just after I got married it was a problem because she was over there and I was here, we had to be going from them. I go to states, sometimes she come and three months after I got married, my mother got sick and she passed away and so everything, things began to get a little sad and so anyway we continue, continue, and we work on it together and we were going along I went up and she came down in 90, 93? I retired and after working with this company for 50 years, I worked for 50 years the same company and I retired and then after retired we were, I went to the states and stayed there and she was still deciding whether she wanted to retire or not and there was a big earthquake and we were about to have a family reunion at that time and the house went down. So we decided that we want, she said the house went down it's permanent and thank the Lord she wasn't hurt. So we decide we wanna build a new house. So we decide, I, I have to stay now because she was working at the time, I was here, so I decided to stay here. We made the decision I would stay and finish the house, so we decided to finish the house and before and then I retired and start building the house. And then after the earthquake, my boss called me back to work and said that we want you to come *stay with us and the guy who has the new job giving you the new job*, so can you come back? So I went back for two months, then it went for six months, then it went for a year, then it went for a year and three months and then suddenly one day I'm going and my wife passed away, she had a heart attack and she passed away. I had to go bring her body down, take her to the cemetery, she was not in Costa Rica. So I brought the body down and we buried her in Costa Rica. My wife was a very kind person. We didn't have any children of our own, but we considered all the children at the church belong to us so we work with the children in Costa Rica, Panama and inworking with the children.....we are religious..... (47:05) I was lucky enough to have married ... and so whatever tradition we had from my mother we continued it because she was ... about the same tradition and so we continue to work and then, so she passed away and so I continue to do her work now that she's away, my mother as well so I continued to work and then we, we had another place, we had another place where we give help..... She had never been but I'd been, twice I went to that And I would help out anyway we can, so we are from Costa Rica right now, we have Panama and we still have New York and Panama and so from the city and we, I continue to do the work because, in doing so I feel that I go there then, I still, they are present with me every day because I do their work that they would do if they were here. So I remember them dearly, not in a sad way, to be sad and crying every day,

but I do remember them very much because not only that, but there are many other people that I remember dearly because they were part of my growing up in this town from This, this place, I mean I think it's transformed from what I knew when I was a boy growing up. It is not the place that I knew when I grew up, nothing like this, all this things that going on never happened when I was a kid. There was no, everybody went Sunday everybody, there were nobody going up and down..... everybody was, it was just church. The younger generation that is growing up today, a lot of them say that you know they're not going to bring up their children like what their parents brought them up. I've heard several of them say that, I am, I am satisfied with the way I was brought up. I did not do things I did at the time when I was growing up, but I realized that now that I'm grown and I'm a grown person I can choose either way. The way that I was brought up or the other. I know right and wrong. Until parents around here and all over the place take up your responsibilities, there's nothing that the government can do. The parenting must start at home and unless these parents of today realize that and start just not hugging children to say, well attention ..., but when I hear these ladies saying that they have bother me when I hear them say that, each one of those child *has a father* and they choose *not to have the father part of the.....(50:58)* and they continue having these children just like that So I am here and I'm still working with kids. I try to do what I can. I help a lot of kids and I'm still helping but if you don't get the support from the parents, it doesn't matter how small the child is, when that child says, I am not going to step down there, the parent has to say no, that it would be good for you to step down here, because if you step here, you can step over there. They say why do you don't want to step there, so? And I think that is what is the problem.

I: How did folks in U.S. define or see you racially in terms of *ethnics*?

N: Well, I in those days when I was at school I didn't hear a lot of the stuff that I hear now. Really, everybody, I was just okay with everybody, everbody was just nice with me. I didn't hear this anything, this much about race, I was studying in here, I was, I, I don't feel that I was treated different because I was black. I, I don't believe that cause I have several white persons we used to go together, we used to, you know I, I didn't feel, I didn't feel that.... while I was there. At least when I was in the United States I didn't hear about this crime and because where I was I could not, I had to go to I could not goand I can do that, I couldn't I couldn't go to I couldn't chew gum. cause where I went, I was surprised, I went to a private college. but I couldn't, you could not go into school and we were going to have a test, the professor he used to sit on the desk and look at you and you are sitting there and he is sitting on the desk, so that's where I went and,

and they used to, one of the professor in English, used to put your make you to stand up right here and quiz you so if you didn't know, you keep going to the class and I went

I: Okay. So what about your view of your West Indian ancestry, what do you know about it if anything?

N: I don't know much about my West Indian ancestors because my mother came from Jamaica when she was younger. She wanted because back then, my mother was a person like this she had 7 children and if she would went to Jamaica, she would have to take 7, or she wouldn't go, so she never went back to there. She had some sisters I know, but grandparents, we had a, I know I had a grandfather, but when I was a child, parents didn't talk to you too much about their, you know like now they would sit and tell you the do much talking. But the Jamaican influence of my mother she displayed it in her upbringing of us, always got up in the morning, what we have to do when we get up because when we get up in the mornings, we have to sit down at the table and read our bibles and everybody had to say a verse and so and then at mealtimes everybody have to be there. If we went to play with, we had, we know what time it was for dinner so we had to try to get back there. If we wasn't there we had to give an explanation why we weren't at the table you see and we couldn't, when 9:00, when we finish our dinner evening, but by 7:00 or so we have to come inside and make sure we have all the things ready. and Saturdays we have to do all the cleaning and everything and get all our clothes ready, our shoes and everything ready. On Sunday we go to church. We don't do anything on Sunday but go to church and come back and have our lunch, our dinner and then we go back to Sunday school, we come back after Sunday school we are walking around, but then we had to go back to church in the night. See that is my early(56:22) we still have to go but sometime we hide away and we go, but in my house, if we go out in the night, we were grown up then, we could go any place, but if we come home at 5:00 in the morning, by 7:00 everybody have to get up because nobody can sleep in our house because we have to go to church. When you come back you can go back and sleep if you want, so that's the kind of house I grew up in.

I: Would you mind telling us your year of birth?

N: Yes, July 9, 1928.

I: What was the last grade of school that you completed?

N: Well I did 6th grade, 6th grade and then I went to work and then I acquire my experience on the job, I learned to do things there. Then I

went to the United States and I was put in a room and was tested there and when I finished I was reading enough that I could go and do the accounting course and I did the course. I was do it in one year but I finish, I couldn't finish it in a year, I finished it in 16 months and I got a diploma for junior accountant and I came back with that and then I went, took up again with my job and I got the promotion so I became, the last position with the company that I worked for was general treasurer. I worked as general treasurer. I had all the financial money part of the company. I was responsible for that. I had to contact Europe, Costa Rica, different parts of the world, I had to make estimates for cash, to take care of all of the people that work, work around here and the Province of Bocas Astura and the Province of and the Province of Panama, come together, I was in charge of all of that. I retired from that. I was the treasurer, official treasurer. After 50 years of working I went in there February 17th, 1943, that was my first day of work and then last day of work was December 31st, 1990, then I went back in 91 and worked until 93.

I: Thank you Mr. Nelson again for participating with us. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or wish to add to your contribution.

N: Thank you.

I: Thank you.

(audio ends)